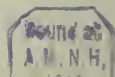




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THE JOURNAL

OF THE

SOUTH AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

EDITED BY

Dr. J. W. B. GUNNING,  
ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S., and B. C. R. LANGFORD.

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VOLUME VI.

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PUBLISHED BY

THE UNION IN PRETORIA, TRANSVAAL.

LONDON AGENTS:  
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1910.

W. J. L. L. L.  
CO.  
W. J. L. L. L.  
W. J. L. L. L.

11. Troto-Canay



## P R E F A C E.



THIS number completes Volume VI. of the Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union.

The appeal to the Members of the Union for more support, both as regards matter for the Journal and as regards the question of Migration, has not met with much response, hence the present volume is not as large as it might have been.

THE EDITORS.



# CONTENTS.

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	Pages
TITLEPAGE . . . . .	i
PREFACE . . . . .	iii
CONTENTS . . . . .	v
ROLL OF MEMBERS . . . . .	vii-xi
LIST OF PAPERS, &c., IN THIS VOLUME . . . . .	xiii-xiv
SUBJECT-MATTER INDEX . . . . .	xv-xvii
PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNION : ACCOUNT OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING . . . . .	xix-xxiii
JOURNAL . . . . .	1-52
INDEX . . . . .	53-58



# ROLL OF MEMBERS

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1910.

No.	Year of Election.	Name and Address.
	1909	ABDY, Col. A. J., R.A.; Army Headquarters, Pretoria.
	1905	ANDERSSON, C. L.; Box 2162, Johannesburg, Tvl.
	1906	BELL, THEODORE; Downside, Epsom, Surrey, England.
	1907	BOLUS, FRANK; Sherwood, Kenilworth, Cape Town.
5	„	BOOTH, H. B.; "Ryhill," Ben Rhydding, Yorkshire, England.
	1905	BOURKE, E. F.; Box 321, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1904	BRIDGEMAN, R. O. B., Lieut. R.N.; Weston Park, Shipnal, Salop, England.
	1907	BRISCOE, Dr. J. E.; Charlestown, Natal.
	1908	CHAMBERS, ROLAND, R.M.; Lindley, O.F.S.
10	1907	CHUBB, E. C.; Box 240, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.
	1909	CLARK KENNEDY, J.; Standerton, Tvl.
	1906	COCH, MAX; Rietfontein Lazaretto, Box 1076, Johannesburg.
	„	COOPER, C. W.; Salisbury, Rhodesia.
	1907	DAVIES, C. G., Sgt. C.M.R.; Bizana, Pondoland, C.C.
15	1904	DAVY, J. BURTT, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., Govt. Botanist; Dept. of Agriculture, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1906	D'EVELYN, Dr. F. W.; 2103 Clinton Av., Alameda, California, U.S.A.
	1905	DRAPER, E. H. U.; Govt. Laboratories, P.O. Box 1080, Johannesburg, Tvl.
	„	DUERDEN, Professor J. E.; c/o Albany Museum, Grahamstown, C.C.
	„	EVANS, J. B. POLE; Dept. of Agriculture, Pretoria, Tvl.

No.	Year of Election.	Name and Address.
20	1904	FAIRBRIDGE, W. G. ; 141 Longmarket Street, Cape Town, C.C.
	„	FELTHAM, H. L. L., F.E.S. ; P.O. Box 46, Johannesburg, Tvl.
	„	FRY, HAROLD A. ; P.O. Box 46, Johannesburg, Tvl.
	1907	GILFILLAN, D. F. ; Box 1397, Johannesburg, Tvl.
	1909	GODFREY, Rev. J. ; Pirie Forest Mission, Kingwilliamstown, C.C.
25	1905	GORDON, Capt. C. W. ; The Castle, Cape Town, C.C.
	1906	GOUGH, LEWIS H., Ph.D.; Box 593, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1907	GOVERNMENT LIBRARIAN ; Govt. Offices, Bloemfontein. O.R.C.
	1908	GRAHAM, FRANCIS, C.C. & R.M. ; Grahamstown, C.C.
	1905	GRANT, C. H. B. ; Natural History Museum, S. Kensington, London, England.
30	„	GREATHEAD, Dr. J. B. ; Van Wyksfontein, Norvals Pont, C.C.
	1906	GRÜNVOLD, HENRIK ; Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London, England.
	1904	GUNNING, J. W. B., M.D., F.Z.S.; Director, Museum and Zoological Gardens, Pretoria, Tvl.
	„	HAAGNER, ALWIN K., F.Z.S., Col.M.B.O.U., Superintendent Tvl. Zoological Gardens, Pretoria.
	1909	HALE, P. E., Insp. O.R.C. Police; Bethlehem, O.R.C.
35	1907	HALHED, N. G. B., 3rd Battn.; Egyptian Army, Khartoum.
	1908	HAMILTON, Major J. S. ; Superintendent, Game Reserves, Komati Poort, Tvl.
	1906	HAMOND, PHILIP, Lieut. 2nd Norfolk Regt. ; East Dereham, Norfolk.
	1909	HARDIMAN, E. H. M. ; Wepener, O.R.C.
	1905	HATCHARD, J. G., F.R.A.S. ; Loco. Drawing Offices, C.S.A.R., Bloemfontein, O.R.C.
40	„	HORSBRUGH, Major BOYD, A.S.C. ; c/o Cox & Co., Bankers, 16 Charing Cross, London.
	„	HOWARD, C. W. ; Dept. of Agriculture. Lourenço Marques.

No.	Year of Election.	Name and Address.
	1908	HOWARD, JAMES L.; Yankee-Doodle Mine, Selukwe, S. Rhodesia.
	1907	HUDSON, C. E.; Dept. of Agriculture, Bloemfontein, O.R.C.
	„	INGLE, J. C., F.Z.S.; P.O. Sabie, Lydenburg, Tvl.
45	1905	INNES, DR. WALTER, M.B.O.U.; School of Medicine, Cairo, Egypt.
	1908	IVY, J. ROBSON; Taxidermist, Grahamstown.
	1905	IVY, ROBERT H., F.Z.S.; Grahamstown, C.C.
	1904	JEPPE, JULIUS; P.O. Box 60, Johannesburg, Tvl.
	1905	JOHNSTON, C. MCG.; Bloemfontein Club, Bloemfontein, O.R.C.
50	1909	JOHNSTON, K. C.; Westminster, O.R.C.
	1904	KIRBY, W.; Intermediate Pumping Station, Waterworks, Kimberley, C.C.
	„	KIRKMAN, DR. A., M.D.; Queenstown, C.C.
	1907	KNAPP, COL.; Kingwilliamstown, C.C.
	1910	KNOBEL, J. C. J., Porter Reformatory, Retreat, C.C.
55	1904	LANGFORD, B. C. R.; P.O. Box 557, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1906	LITTLEDALE, H. A. P., Lieut. K.O.Y.L.I.; Roberts Heights, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1905	LOUBSER, M. M.; Port Elizabeth, C.C.
	1908	MALLY, C. W., M.Sc.; Eastern Province Entomologist, Grahamstown, C.C.
	1905	MARTHINIUS, DR. J. G.; District Surgeon, Wepener, O.R.C.
60	1904	MILLAR, A. D., Col.M.B.O.U.; 298 Smith Street, Durban, Natal.
	1908	MÖRS, F. E. O.; Box 776, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1905	MURRAY, J. P.; Maseru, Basutoland.
	1907	NEETHLING, HARRY; address unknown.
	1906	NEHRKORN, ADOLF; Adolfstrasse, Braunschweig, Germany.
65	„	NEWMAN, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.; Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, England.
	„	NOOME, F. O.; c/o Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1905	OBERHOLSER, HARRY C.; Biological Survey, Washington, D.C. U.S.A.

No.	Year of Election.	Name and Address.
	1904	PEASE, Sir ALFRED E., Bart., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.; Barberton, Transvaal.
	,,	PERCIVAL, A. B., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.; Nairobi, Brit. East Afr. Protectorate.
70	1907	PÉRINGUEY, Dr. L., F.Z.S., &c.; Director S.A. Museum, Cape Town, C.C.
	1905	PERSHOUSE, STANLEY, Border Regt.; c/o Miss Findlay, 9 St. Leonard's Road, Exeter, England.
	1908	PHEAR, H. H.; Box 424, Kimberley.
	1907	PICKSTONE, S. P.; Box 4820, Johannesburg.
	1906	POGGÉ, C.; Conservator of Forests, Germany.
75	1907	PRITCHARD, A. G. R.; Box 4820, Johannesburg.
	1904	PYM, FRANK A. O.; Public Museum, Kingwilliams- town, C.C.
	,,	ROBERTS, AUSTIN; Box 413, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1907	ROBERTS, Rev. Noel; English Church, P.O. Gezina, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1908	ROBERTSON, Dr. W.; Bacteriological Institute, Grahamstown.
80	,,	SCLATER, ARTHUR L.; "Helvetia," Southern Mel- setter, S.E. Rhodesia.
	1906	SHEPPARD, P. A.; Mile 23, M'Zimbiti, Beira, P. E. A.
	1904	SKEA, ERNEST M.
	,,	SPARROW, R., M.B.O.U., Major 7th Dragoon Gds.; Rookwoods, Sible Headingham, Essex, England.
	1905	SWINBURNE, JOHN, M.B.O.U.; Rand Nat. Labour Assoc., Pietersburg, Tvl.
85	1904	SWINNY, H. H.; Port St. John, West Pondoland.
	1907	SWYNNERTON, C. F. M.; Gungunyana, Melsetter Dist., S. Rhodesia.
	1905	TAYLOR, C. H.; Grassridge, P.O. Bankop, Ermelo.
	1904	TAYLOR, L. E.; Assist. Conservator of Forests, Dept. of Agriculture, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1907	THEILER, Dr. A., Govt. Veterinary Bacteriologist; Box 385, Pretoria, Tvl.
90	1909	THOMPSON, CHAS. S.; High School, San Bernardino, California, U.S.A.
	1906	THOMSEN, F.; c/o Govt. Entomologist, Govt. Bldgs., Pretoria, Tvl.
	1909	TOWNSEND, S. F.; Bulawayo, Rhodesia.



No.	Year of Election.	Name and Address.
95	1908	TYRRELL, E. G. HARCOURT ; Greytown, Natal.
	1909	UPTON, Capt. C., A.S.C. ; Tempe, Bloemfontein.
	1906	VAUGHAN-KIRBY, F., F.Z.S. ; Sunnyside, Pretoria, Tvl.
	1905	WIGLESWORTH, J., M.D., M.B.O.U. ; Rainhill, Liverpool, England.
	1906	WOOD, A. R., A.R.M. ; Wepener, O.R.C.
99	1904	WOOD, JOHN ; Box 363, East London, C.C.
	1905	WORKMAN, W. H., M.B.O.U. ; Lismore, Belfast, Ireland.

*Hon. Members.*

1	1909	ALLEN, Dr. J. A. ; Amer. Museum of Nat. Hist., Washington.
2	1908	BUCKNILL, The Hon. J. A., M.A., F.Z.S. ; The King's Advocate, Nicosia, Cyprus.
3	1907	HARTERT, Dr. E. ; Director Tring Museum, Tring, Herts, England.
4	1909	HERMAN, Dr. OTTO ; Hung. Central Bureau of Ornithology, Budapest.
5	1904	REICHENOW, Dr. A. ; Kaisl. Zool. Museum, Invalidenstrasse, Berlin, Germany.
6	„	SCLATER, P. L., D.Sc., F.R.S. ; Odiham Priory, Winchfield, Hants, England.
7	1907	SCLATER, W. L., M.A., F.Z.S. ; 10 Sloane Court, London, S.W.
8	1904	SHELLEY, Capt. G. E., F.Z.S. ; 39 Egerton Gardens, London.
9	„	TRIMEN, R., F.R.S. ; c/o Entomological Society, London, W.



# LIST OF PAPERS, &c., IN THIS VOLUME.

VOL. VI., No. 1, *August* 1910.

	Page
I. Migration Report 1908-1909 .....	1
II. A Second Contribution to the Ornithology of Eastern Pondoland. By C. G. DAVIES, M.B.O.U.....	5
III. On a new Species of Flycatcher from Rhodesia. By ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S. &c. ....	14
IV. Field-Notes on the "Woodbush Warbler" ( <i>Hemi- pteryx minuta</i> , Gunn.). By F. VAUGHAN-KIRBY, F.Z.S.....	15
V. Some Remarks on the Migration of the White Stork ( <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> ). By ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S. &c. ....	17
VI. Obituary: Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE, Asst. Keeper, British Museum. (Plate I.) .....	20
VII. Occasional Notes .....	21
VIII. Short Notices of Ornithological Publications.....	24

## VOL. VI., No. 2, December 1910.

Page

IX. Remarks upon some further (mostly hitherto undescribed or unfigured) Eggs of certain South African birds. By JOHN A. BUCKNILL, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., and G. HENRIK GRÖNVOLD. (Plate II.) .....	27
X. Notes on the Plumage of the Mountain Chat ( <i>Saxicola monticola</i> , Bechst.). By C. G. DAVIES, M.B.O.U. ....	33
XI. Field-Notes on some little-known Birds, including two new Species, from Observations made during the Nesting - Season of 1909 near Beira, P.E.A. By P. A. SHEPPARD .....	37
XII. Occasional Notes .....	45
XIII. Short Notices of Ornithological Publications.....	48

# SUBJECT-MATTER INDEX, INCLUDING NAMES OF CONTRIBUTORS.

	Page
Allen, J. A. Thanks .....	21
'Aquila,' Organ of Roy. Hung. Bureau of Ornithology, noticed ..	25
'Avicultural Magazine,' noticed .....	49
Beira, Field-notes from (P. A. Sheppard) .....	37
Bi-annual Nidification of Black-chested Wren-Warbler .....	22
Biedermann, Dr. R., "On Holding of Foot of Birds in Flight," noticed .....	26
Bucknill, J. A., & Grönvold, H., "Remarks upon some further Eggs of S. African Birds" .....	27
Bulletin Br. Orn. Club (Migration Report, 1908), noticed.....	25
Check-list of Birds of South Africa (Gunning and Haagner), noticed.	51
Congress of Ornithology, 5th International .....	47
Davies, C. G., M.B.O.U. A Second Contribution to the Ornithology of Eastern Pondoland .....	5
——. Notes on the Plumage of the Mountain Chat .....	33
East Africa and Uganda Nat. History Society, noticed .....	21
Eggs of South African Birds (Bucknill and Grönvold) .....	27
'Emu,' Organ of Australasian Ornithol. Union, noticed .....	50
Field-notes on some little-known Birds, including two new Species, from Observations made during 1909 near Beira .....	37
Field-notes on the Woodbush Warbler .....	15
FitzSimons, F. W. Garden Warbler at Port Elizabeth .....	22
Flycatcher, on a new species of (Haagner) .....	14
Generic Names applied to Birds during the Years 1901 to 1905 inclusive (Chas. W. Richmond), noticed .....	26
Geographical Distribution of Genus <i>Macronyx</i> , noticed.....	52
Godman, F. DuCane. 'Monograph of the Petrels,' noticed .....	52
Grönvold, H. (See Bucknill.)	

	Page
Haagner, Alwin. Habits of Great-tailed Widow-Bird .....	45
——. On a new Species of Flycatcher from Rhodesia .....	14
——. Some Remarks on the Migration of the White Stork ....	17
Hand-list of Genera and Species of Birds (Dr. Bowdler Sharpe), noticed .....	52
Herman, Dr. Otto. Thanks .....	21
'Home Life of a Golden Eagle' (Witherby & Co.), noticed .....	52
 'Ibis: Journal of Ornithology,' noticed .....	24, 48
Ingle, J. C., F.Z.S. Soft Parts of Narina Trogon .....	23
International Congress of Ornithology, Fifth .....	47
Ixodid on Swallow (J. P. Murray) .....	47
 'Journal für Ornithologie,' noticed .....	50
 'Katalog der Eiersammlung' (A. Nehrkorn), noticed .....	57
'Kent, History of the Birds of' (Ticehurst), noticed .....	26
Kirby, F. Vaughan. Field-notes on Woodbush Warbler .....	15
 'Life of William MacGillivray' (Murray), noticed .....	51
 'MacGillivray, William, Life of,' noticed .....	51
Macpherson, H. B. 'Home Life of Golden Eagle,' noticed .....	52
Marked Hawk in Senekal, O.F.S. ....	23
Mem. Man. Lit. & Phil. Soc., noticed .....	52
Migration Report S.A.O.U., 1908-9 .....	1
Migration Report B.O.C., 1908, noticed .....	25
Migration of White Stork (Haagner) .....	17
'Monograph of the Petrels' (Witherby & Co.), noticed .....	52
Murray, J. P. Ixodid on Swallow .....	47
 Nehrkorn, A. 'Katalog der Eiersammlung,' noticed .....	51
Notes on the Plumage of the Mountain Chat .....	33
 Obituary: Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe .....	20
Occasional Notes .....	21, 45
Occurrence of White Egret with Ring .....	46
'Ornithologisches Jahrbuch,' No. 7, noticed .....	26
Ornithological Congress, 5th Intern. ....	47
 Pondoland, Second Contribution to Ornithology of .....	5
Port Elizabeth, Garden Warbler at .....	22

	Page
Remarks upon some further (mostly undescribed) Eggs of South African Birds (Bucknill and Grönvold).....	27
Richmond, Chas. W. 'Generic Names of Birds,' noticed .....	26
Ring on White Egret (John Wood) .....	46
Roberts, Austin. Bi-annual Nidification of Black-chested Wren-Warbler .....	22
Second Contribution to the Ornithology of Pondoland .....	5
Sharpe, Dr. R. Bowdler. Obituary Notice .....	20
Sheppard, P. A. Field-notes on some little-known Birds, including two new Species, during Nesting-season of 1909, near Beira, P.E.A. ....	37
Short Notices of Ornithological Publications .....	24, 48
Some Remarks on the Migration of the White Stork .....	17
Ticehurst, N. F. 'History of Birds of Kent,' noticed .....	26
Van der Merwe, C. P. Marked Hawk at Senekal .....	23
Vaughan-Kirby. <i>See</i> Kirby.	
Wood, John. Ringed White Egret .....	46

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PLATE I. Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe.

„ II. Figures of Eggs of S. African Birds.





## PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNION.

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### ACCOUNT OF SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Seventh Annual Meeting of the S. A. O. U. was held in Cape Town on Friday, 6th November, at 11 A.M., in the South African Museum, by kind permission of the Director, Dr. Péringuey (a Vice-President of the Union), who, in the absence of the President (Dr. GUNNING), kindly took the Chair. The Meeting was very poorly attended, on account of so many meetings and attractions having been arranged within the space of a week.

Amongst those present were, however, Messrs. W. G. Fairbridge and Frank Bolus, of Cape Town ; Dr. Theiler, Mr. Burt Davy, and the Hon. Secretary, from Pretoria.

After the Minutes of the previous Meeting (held in Bloemfontein) had been read and confirmed, a discussion took place on the difficult subject of

*Migration.*—The Secretary informed the Meeting that the idea, recommended at the Bloemfontein Meeting, that small sets of skins of the more important migratory birds should be presented to all the more important schools, had not been put into effect on account of Union coming in. Dr. PÉRINGUEY thought this was not easily arranged, as loan collections were out of the question, being too badly handled by the average teacher, and to give each school a set would require considerable outlay and time. Dr. THEILER thought good, large wall-pictures would meet the case, provided they were submitted to the S. A. O. U. for approval

prior to issue. Upon this a resolution was taken that all Provincial Education Departments be asked to co-operate in the providing and furnishing of such wall-pictures, originals and proofs of which should first be submitted to the Union authorities, to prevent glaring errors from creeping into these pictures, and so rendering them worse than useless.

*Protection of Game-Birds.*—Dr. PÉRINGUEY thought that the recommendations of the Bloemfontein Meeting were beyond practicability, and thought such matters should be left to the Game Protection Associations. Mr. BURTT DAVY suggested that any species which may become very scarce could be placed on the list of Royal Game. The discussion was carried forward.

*Secretary's Report.*—The adoption of this was proposed by Mr. BURTT DAVY and duly carried.

*Treasurer's Statement.*—This was passed in order, and Mr. AUSTIN ROBERTS was appointed to Audit the Books and Accounts.

*Change of Agency.*—This matter, after some discussion, was left in the hands of the Council.

*Members.*—Mr. J. C. KNOBEL, proposed by Mr. L. E. TAYLOR, was duly elected a Member.

The SECRETARY was authorised to remove from the Roll 3 Members, for non-payment of subscriptions.

*Council.*—As Mr. A. POGGÉ had left South Africa, his name was removed from the Council.

*Officers for 1911.*—The office-bearers for 1911 were elected as follows :—

*President* . . . . Dr. J. W. B. GUNNING, Director Transvaal  
Museum and Zoological Gardens, Pretoria.

*Vice-Presidents* . . { Dr. DUERDEN, M.Sc.  
Dr. PÉRINGUEY, F.Z.S.  
A. D. MILLAR, Esq., Col.M.B.O.U.

*Hon. Secretary* { . . A. K. HAAGNER, F.Z.S., &c.  
*and Treasurer* }

<i>Members of Council</i> .	{	L. E. TAYLOR . . . . .	Transvaal.
		C. McG. JOHNSTON . . . .	O.R.C.
		F. A. O. PYM . . . . .	Cape Colony.
		Dr. J. E. BRISCOE . . . . .	Natal.
		J. P. MURRAY . . . . .	Basutoland.
		P. A. SHEPPARD . . . . .	Port. East Africa.
		E. C. CHUBB, F.Z.S. . . . .	Rhodesia.

After the conclusion of the business, Dr. PÉRINGUEY exhibited two mounted examples of the Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) and an egg of the species (till then undiscovered), also a beautiful cast of the egg of the Great Auk.

Appended are the Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Statement.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,—

As you all know, the last Annual Meeting was held in Bloemfontein. It was then decided to hold the next Meeting in Cape Town with that of the S. A. A. A. S., should circumstances warrant this. As the cheap fares on account of the Pageant would no doubt attract many people from all parts of South Africa, it was thought advisable to adhere to the custom adopted in the last two years, and hold our Meeting, with that of the S. A. A. A. S., in the parliamentary capital of South Africa.

I will give you a brief review of the work of the Union for last year, and the state of the Membership, &c., since last Meeting.

*Members.*—There have been two resignations since last Meeting; and I would ask permission to remove three Members from the Roll for non-payment of subscriptions.

The following new Member is nominated for election:—  
J. A. C. KNOBEL, Retreat, C.C., proposed by L. E. TAYLOR.

The total Membership at date numbers 99 Ordinary and 9 Honorary.

*Publications.*—During the past year three numbers of the Journal were published, forming Vol. V., with 140 pp. letterpress, and one coloured lithographic plate.

In addition, a new and up-to-date Check-list (by your President and Secretary) was published by the Government as a separate number of the 'Annals of the Transvaal Museum,' but an additional 100 copies were purchased by the S. A. O. U. and issued gratis to all Members not more than two years in arrear. This list, we hope, will fill a long-felt want. It has taken a lot of compilation, having cost the authors much of their spare time during the last  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years.

*Migration.*—The Second Report, embodying the observations made during 1908 and 1909, was printed in the 1st No. of this year, and shows a slight advance on the First Report in some respects. It is, however, to be regretted that so much difficulty is experienced in interesting many of our Members in this important work. Nevertheless, it is pleasing to report that the experiment of ringing Storks and other migratory birds has met with such phenomenal success, no less than 12 of the former birds marked with date-rings having been procured in South Africa. Lately, Mr. Jno. Wood, of East London, has reported the occurrence of a ringed White Egret in that locality, which was, however, unfortunately not obtained.

*Finance.*—The Statement of Accounts, hereto attached, explains itself. The Union has in hand, at date, £50, with only the printing account of the No. lately issued unpaid. I regret to state that my accounts for last year are not complete, the London Agent having failed to submit his statement of Journal sales and issue expenses for 1909.

*Export of Game-Birds.*—The resolution of last Meeting regarding this matter was not put into execution, in view of the fact that Union was approaching, and we thought it advisable to leave this important question until such time as the country was more settled so far as politics are concerned. Further instructions on this point are desired.





THE JOURNAL  
OF THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION,

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Vol. VI.

AUGUST 1910.

No. 1.

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I.—*Migration Report 1908–1909.*

THE Committee for Migration present herewith one report for the years 1908 and 1909.

In doing so we have to apologize to our European colleagues for the paucity of the observations. In a country like South Africa, where the population is thinly distributed over a vast area, it is almost hopeless to expect much better results until the teachers and older scholars of the country schools know more about Natural History and take more interest in it. Most of our Members are busy men living in towns, where it is not easy to locate the first arrivals. It is therefore hoped that a properly illustrated pamphlet will be circulated amongst the country schools at no very distant date, in order to enlist the practical sympathy of the teachers. At present it is difficult for them to distinguish even the commoner birds, local names being so misleading in South Africa; we can therefore only offer the following data to our brother ornithologists on the other side of the water, leaving them to work out what little can be deduced when incorporated with their own reports. It is pleasing to note that the practical experiment of "ringing" White Storks has met with such excellent results, ten ringed Storks having been procured in South Africa up to date. More details will be found further on in this number.

## A.—NORTHERN MIGRANTS.

The White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*).*Arrivals, Summer 1908.*

PLACE.	OBSERVER.	DATE.	WIND AND REMARKS.
Umtamvuna River, Pondoland.	C. G. Davies.	17. 10. 08.	
Kingwilliamstown.	F. A. O. Pym.	4. 1. 09.	
Bethulie, O.R.C.	R. Chambers.	26. 12. 08.	Flock.
Maseru, Basutoland.	J. P. Murray.	12. 12. 08.	W. Flock.
Pretoria.	A. Haagner.	28. 12. 08.	N.W. Flock.
Ermelo.	C. H. Taylor.	28. 9. 08.	N.
Olifants R., E. Tvl.	Major Hamilton.	12. 11. 08.	N. Flock.
P.O. Sabie.	J. C. Ingle.	1. 12. 08.	

In addition to the above dates, Mr. O. W. Barrett (Director of Agriculture, Portuguese E. Afr.) reports having seen White Storks on the Zambesi River on 30th July. Whether these were *Ciconias* is an open question.

*Departure, Autumn 1909.*

Komatipoort.	Hamilton,	16. 2. 09.	S.E.
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*Arrivals, Summer 1909.*

Matatiale, E. Griqualand.	C. G. Davies.	18. 11. 09.	
Pretoria.	A. Haagner.	1. 12. 09.	Five birds.

The Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*).*Arrival.*

Ermelo.	C. H. Taylor.	10. 10. 08.	
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The Greenshank (*Totanus glottis*).*Arrivals.*

East London, C.C.	John Wood.	9. 11. 08.	
Ermelo, Tvl.	C. H. Taylor.	5. 10. 08.	
Belfast, Tvl.	L. E. Taylor.	18. 10. 09.	

Yellow-billed Kite (*Milvus aegyptius*).

Komatipoort.	Arrived 16. 9. 08.	Departed 15. 3. 09.	Major Hamilton.
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European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*).

Komatipoort.	Arrived 10. 10. 08.	Departed 24. 3. 09.	Major Hamilton.
Matatiale.	Do. 25. 12. 09.	...	C. G. Davies.



PLACE.	OBSERVER.	DATE.	WIND AND REMARKS.
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Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*).

*Departures.*

Umtamvuna River, Pondoland.	C. G. Davies.	29. 3. 09.	
Komatipoort, Tvl.	Major Hamilton.	31. 3. 09.	

European Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

*Departure.*

Umtamvuna River.	C. G. Davies.	15. 3. 08.	
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Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola melanoptera*).

*Arrivals.*

Bethulie.	R. Chambers.	26. 12. 08.	
Swaziland Border.	C. H. Taylor.	10. 9. 08.	
Belfast.	L. E. Taylor.	11. 10. 08.	
Ermelo.	C. H. Taylor.	24. 10. 09.	

*Departure.*

Bizana, Pondoland.	C. G. Davies.	19. 3. 08.	
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European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*).

*Arrivals.*

Melsetter, Rhodesia.	A. L. Schlater.	14. 10. 08.	
Komatipoort, Tvl.	Major Hamilton.	17. 9. 08.	
Pretoria (Zoo).	A. Haagner.	29. 10. 08.	N., gentle.
Irene, nr. Pretoria.	L. Taylor.	4. 11. 08.	
Bethulie, O.R.C.	R. Chambers.	27. 9. 08.	N.W.
Ookiep, Namaqua- land.	H. A. P. Littledale.	6. 10. 08.	Slight.
Pretoria (Zoo).	A. Haagner.	17. 10. 09.	

*Departures.*

Bethulie, O.R.C.	R. Chambers.	27. 2. 08.	W.
Komatipoort.	Major Hamilton.	20. 3. 08.	S.E.
Melsetter, S. Rho- desia.	A. L. Schlater.	3. 5. 08.	S.E.

Lesser Kestrel (*Cerchneis naumanni*).

*Arrivals.*

Melsetter.	A. L. Schlater.	13. 10. 08.	S.E.
Irene.	L. E. Taylor.	11. 11. 08.	
Bethulie.	R. Chambers.	4. 1. 09.	W. to N.W.
Maseru.	J. P. Murray.	12. 12. 08.	W.
Kingwilliamstown.	F. A. O. Pym.	20. 1. 09.	
Matatiale.	C. G. Davies.	12. 12. 09.	

PLACE.	OBSERVER.	DATE.	WIND AND REMARKS.
European Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> ).			
<i>Arrivals.</i>			
Melsetter.	A. L. Selater.	27. 9. 08.	S.E.
Komatipoort.	Major Hamilton.	1. 11. 08.	S.E.
Irene.	L. E. Taylor.	10. 11. 08.	
Bethulie.	R. Chambers.	27. 11. 08.	N.N.W.
Umtamvuna River.	C. G. Davies.	9. 11. 08.	
Bizana.	Do.	11. 10. 09.	

<i>Departures.</i>			
Komatipoort.	Major Hamilton.	26. 4. 08.	N. Flocks.
Do.	Do.	5. 5. 08.	Last one seen.
Bethulie.	R. Chambers.	27. 3. 08.	
Umtamvuna River.	C. G. Davies.	18. 3. 08.	N.E.
Bethulie District.	E. Collins.	26. 4. 09.	
" Town.	R. Chambers.	29. 4. 09.	
Komatipoort.	Major Hamilton.	8. 3. 09.	Massing.
Do.	Do.	20. 4. 09.	Last flock.
Do.	Do.	26. 4. 09.	Last one seen.

*Arrivals.*Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*).

Umtamvuna River.	C. G. Davies.	6. 9. 08.
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Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo desertorum*).

Irene.	L. E. Taylor.	4. 11. 08.
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Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrurus*).

Belfast.	L. E. Taylor.	19. 10. 08.
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Land-Rail (*Crex crex*).

Irene.	L. E. Taylor.	13. 1. 09.
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## B.—AFRICAN MIGRANTS.

*Arrivals and Departures.*African Stripe-breasted Swallow (*Hirundo cucullata*).

Pretoria.	Noel Roberts.	23. 9. 08.	
Irene Dist., do.	L. E. Taylor.	16. 9. 08.	
Bizana, Podoland.	C. G. Davies.	30. 9. 08.	
Do.	Do.	22. 9. 09.	
Umtamvuna, do.	Do.	...	21. 4. 08.

PLACE.	OBSERVER.	DATE.	DATE.
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*Arrivals and Departures.*Lesser Stripe-breasted Swallow (*Hirundo puella*).

Bizana.	C. G. Davies.	9. 9. 08.	
Do.	Do.	25. 9. 09.	
Umtamvuna.	Do.	....	29. 3. 08.

White-breasted Swallow (*Hirundo albicularis*).

Irene, nr. Pretoria.	L. E. Taylor.	23. 8. 08.	
Umtamvuna.	C. G. Davies.	11. 8. 08.	
Bizana.	Do.	....	15. 3. 08.
Do.	Do.	19. 9. 09.	
Hanover, C.C.	G. S. G. Malan.	7. 9. 08.	25. 3. 09.
Sabi.	Major Hamilton.	....	5. 5. 09.
Bethulie, O.F.S.	R. Chambers.	....	21. 4. 09.

Carmine-throated Bee-eater (*Merops nubicoides*).

Sabi.	Major Hamilton.	1. 10. 09.	
Do.	Do.	....	20. 3. 09.

African White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*).

Sabi.	Major Hamilton.	....	17. 4. 09.
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South African Cuckoo (*Cuculus solitarius*).

Umtamvuna.	C. G. Davies.	13. 10. 08.	
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Black Cuckoo (*Cuculus clamosus*).

Umtamvuna.	C. G. Davies.	17. 10. 08.	
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Golden Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx cupreus*).

Umtamvuna.	C. G. Davies.	1. 11. 08.	
Irene, nr. Pretoria	L. E. Taylor.	4. 10. 08.	

II.—*A Second Contribution to the Ornithology of Eastern Pondoland.* By C. G. DAVIES, M.B.O.U.

THE birds mentioned in the following list I have obtained since writing my previous paper, published in the 'Journal S.A.O.U.' for December 1907.

In the same paper I recorded on page 182 having procured two specimens of *Quelea erythrops*. I have since been fortunate enough to obtain seven more specimens, viz., two males at Flagstaff and two males and three females on the

Umtamvuna River. It is strange that this equatorial species should be suddenly found so far south.

I have to acknowledge my thanks to Mr. Haagner for much kind help and for seeing my papers through the press. My thanks are also due to many of my friends for kindly lending me specimens of many rare birds ; notably Sergeants Heale and Rhodes and Corpl. Aris of my regiment and to Mr. F. M. Allison of Palmerton, near Lusikisiki.

I have continued the numbering of the species from my last paper, which brings the total up to 287 from this part of Pondoland.

237. *PETRONIA SUPERCILIARIS* ([Hay] Blyth). Diamond Sparrow.

This species is not uncommon amongst the mimosa-bush in the valleys.

238. *SERINUS SULPHURATUS* (L.). Large Yellow Seed-eater.

Not uncommon locally, usually found in old native gardens.

239. *SERINUS SCOTOPS* (Sund.). Sundevall's Seed-eater.

Rather scarce ; I found a few on the coast near Lusikisiki and on the Umtamvuna River.

240. *FRINGILLARIA TAHAPISI*, A. Sm. Rock Bunting.

I have found this species fairly common on the hillsides along the Umtamvuna River, frequenting the native corn-lands, and open bush mixed with rocky ground. They feed mostly on the ground, flying up into the bushes when disturbed.

241. *MIRAFRA AFRICANA*, A. Sm. Rufous-naped Lark.

I have only met with this Lark on the Umtamvuna River, where they are fairly common. During the winter months they are seldom seen, keeping almost entirely to the ground, and prefer hiding or running to taking flight ; but during the spring they are amongst the most conspicuous birds ; they are everywhere to be seen perched on the tops of low

bushes, uttering their loud whistle. At this season they sometimes utter a short song whilst on the wing.

242. *ANTHUS CRENATUS*, Finsch & Hartl. Large Yellow-tufted Pipit.

I shot a single adult male of this species on the top of a rocky hill near the Umtamvuna River. This is the only specimen I have seen in Pondoland.

243. *ANTHUS NICHOLSONI*, Sharpe. Nicholson's Pipit.

This Pipit is not uncommon along the Umtamvuna River, frequenting rocky hillsides.

244. *MOTACILLA CAPENSIS*, L. Cape Wagtail.

This species was accidentally omitted from my previous paper ; it is very common everywhere.

245. *POMATORHYNCHUS TSCHAGRA* (Vieill.). Tschagra Bush-Shrike.

I overlooked this species for a long time, mistaking it for *P. senegalus*. It appears to be fairly common amongst the scrub-bush in the valleys, keeping mostly to the ground, and is rarely seen.

246. *ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS* (L.). Great Reed-Warbler.

Not common. I have only secured four specimens, two at Flagstaff and two on the Umtamvuna River. They are generally found in the valleys, frequenting both the reeds and the scrub-bush along the banks.

247. *ACROCEPHALUS PALUSTRIS* (Bechst.). Marsh-Warbler.

Although not uncommon in some of the river valleys, this species is one of the hardest birds I know of to collect. They frequent the thickest parts of the scrub, and although one often hears their pretty song, the most one usually sees of them is a glimpse of a small brown bird which appears for a second on the top of some low bush, and on the slightest alarm dives back into cover, to appear again perhaps 100

yards away. The song is very pretty though somewhat disjointed ; the alarm-note a short " chat."

248. *BRADYPTERUS BABÆCULA* (Vieill.). Babbling Reed-Warbler.

Not uncommon amongst the reeds along river-banks. It has a really beautiful song when it chooses to sing steadily, but it usually only utters a bar here and there as it hops about amongst the reeds just above the water.

249. *PRINIA MYSTACEA*, Rüpp. Tawny-flanked Wren-Warbler.

Very common in the lower river valleys, frequenting open scrub, and generally going about in small family parties. The young differ a good deal in colour from the adults, having the tail longer, the plumage more olive above and more yellow below, and the bill and inside of mouth, which are black in the adult, are yellow in the young, the culmen being brown.

250. *CISTICOLA FULVICAPILLA* (Vieill.). Tawny-headed Grass-Warbler.

Common amongst the scrub in the valleys ; they also frequent the meale-lands and feed a good deal on the ground.

251. *CISTICOLA RUFICAPILLA* (A. Sm.). Rufous-headed Grass-Warbler.

Not so common as the previous species, and found more in the open.

252. *CISTICOLA TINNIENS* (Lcht.). Le Vaillant's Grass-Warbler.

Common amongst the sedge and reeds along the streams and marshes on the higher ground, but not found in the lower valleys.

253. *CISTICOLA SUBRUFICAPILLA* (A. Sm.). Grey-backed Grass-Warbler.

Not uncommon amongst the long grass on the hillsides. In spring the males sometimes indulge in a curious love-

dance, hovering in the air above the female, the tail spread out and jerked up and down, reminding one of the love-dance of *Vidua serena*.

254. *CISTICOLA CHINIANA MAGNA*, Gould. (Haagner, Ann. Transvaal Museum, p. 229. no. 5.)

This species, which has been confused with *C. natalensis* and *C. chiniana*, resembles *C. subruficapilla* in most of its habits, and frequents much the same ground: I found it fairly common near the Umtamvuna River.

255. *MYRMECOCICHLA FORMICIVORA* (Vieill.). Ant-eating Chat.

Apparently rare in this region. I have only met with a single specimen near Bizana.

256. *SAXICOLA MONTICOLA* (Vieill.). Mountain Chat.

I procured a single female near the Umtamvuna River; this was probably a straggler from the Tugela Mountain in Natal.

257. *CAMPEPHAGA HARTLAUBI* (Salvad.). Yellow-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike.

Rather scarce; but I have shot specimens at St. John's, Flagstaff, and on the Umtamvuna River.

258. *RIPARIA PALUDICOLA* (Vieill.). S. African Sand-Martin.

This species is decidedly rare in E. Pondoland; I have once or twice seen single specimens on the Umtamvuna River, but not elsewhere.

259. *CAPRIMULGUS TRIMACULATUS* (Swains.). Freckled Nightjar.

I shot a single adult female of this scarce Nightjar on the Umtamvuna River and have seen no others.

260. *CAPRIMULGUS NATALENSIS*, A. Sm. Natal Nightjar.

This species is not uncommon in the river valleys, its liquid note being heard on all sides on fine summer evenings.



261. *COLIUS INDICUS*, Lath. Red-faced Mouse-bird.

I have only met with this species on one occasion, when I came across a flock amongst some scrub-bush near the sea at Port St. John.

262. *JYNN RUFICOLLIS*, Wagl. S. African Wryneck.

Not uncommon along the Umtamvuna River from March till September, but I have met with it elsewhere.

263. *CUCULUS CANORUS*, L. European Cuckoo.

This is a scarce bird in E. Pondoland, and although I believe I have seen it on one or two occasions, the only specimen I have secured was an adult male picked up by some natives with its wing broken and in a starving condition.

264. *CLAMATOR GLANDARIUS* (L.). Great Spotted Cuckoo.

This species seems to be rare. I shot an adult male near the Umtamvuna River on the 6.9.08. This is the only one I have seen.

265. *CLAMATOR HYPOPINARIUS*, Cab. & Heine. Black-and-Grey Cuckoo.

I have received a single specimen (an adult female) from Capt. J. A. Aris, shot near his station on the Umtamvuna. I have not met with the species myself.

266. *STRIX FLAMMEA*, L. Barn Owl.

I have not been able to procure a specimen of this Owl, but am sure it occurs, as I have often heard the note at night and have found feathers under krantzes.

267. *CIRCAËTUS PECTORALIS*, A. Sm. Black-breasted Harrier-Eagle.

This species appears to be more or less migratory: they appear in fair numbers along the river valleys in the spring, and after staying a day or two the majority seem to disappear. A fine adult was shot by Mr. Allison near Lusikisiki.



268. *CIRCUS MACRURUS* (Gm.). Pale Harrier.

Not common ; but during the summer months a few are generally to be seen flying slowly over the open veldt and mealie lands.

269. *ACCIPITER MINULLUS* (Daud.). Little Sparrow-Hawk.

Mr. Allison kindly sent me a skin of an adult male, shot in the Lusikisiki District. I have not met with it myself.

270. *CICONIA NIGRA*, L. Black Stork.

This is rather a rare bird. One was killed some years ago near Lusikisiki, and I myself saw a fine adult bird at the mouth of a lagoon on the coast near Lusikisiki on the 1.6.07. It was very wild and I was unable to shoot it.

271. *HERODIAS ALBA* (L.). Great White Egret.

I received a fine female in the flesh from Sgt. Rhodes, stationed at Webster's Drift, on the Umtamvuna River. This bird was shot on the 28.8.08 and was in non-breeding plumage. I have not personally met with this species.

272. *ARDETTA MINUTA* (L.). European Little Bittern.

I shot an adult male of this pretty little Bittern on the Umtamvuna River, the only specimen I have seen. It was climbing slowly through the reeds just above the water. I have since received a rather mangled skin of a female from Mr. Allison, but do not know whether to refer it to this species or to *A. pagesi*.

273. *PHENICOPTERUS ROSEUS*, Pall. Greater Flamingo.

I have received the skin of an immature bird of this species from a friend who shot it at the mouth of the Umtamvuna River. It was one of four birds, all in the brown plumage. This is apparently a rare bird in Pondoland, as none of the natives or traders had ever seen one like it before.

274. *PLECTROPTERUS GAMBENSIS* (L.). Spur-wing Goose.

This is a very scarce bird in E. Pondoland ; I saw a flock of five pass over the camp at Lusikisiki one day, and have heard of one having been killed on the upper Umzimvubu River.

275. *NETTAPUS AURITUS* (Bodd.) Dwarf Goose.

I have received three specimens of this beautiful little Goose, two males and a female, killed by Corpl. Aris, C.M.R., near his camp on the Umtamvuna River on the 27.7.08. I have never met with this species myself and think it must be rare.

276. *DENDROCYCNA VIDUATA* (L.). White-faced Duck.

I received a single female of this species from Sgt. Rhodes, who tells me that a flock of about twenty had passed the greater part of the winter on the river near his camp; he said they were rather wild, but he had shot about eight of them. I do not think this species has before been recorded from so far south.

277. *ANAS UNDULATA*, Dubois. Yellow-billed Duck.

I only met with this Duck at the mouth of the Umgazi River, where I saw a large flock.

278. *ANAS CAPENSIS*, Gm. Cape Teal.

I saw a single specimen of this Teal on the Umtamvuna River on the 1.12.08. I had unfortunately no gun with me at the time, but there could be no doubt as to the species, as it was quite close, and I watched it for some time from behind the reeds. I cannot understand why this species should be called the "Cape Wigeon" in Stark and Selater's book, as it is a true Teal, and bears no resemblance to a Wigeon either in appearance or habits.

279. *FRANCOLINUS NATALENSIS*, A. Sm. Natal Francolin.

This species is found in fair numbers along the lower river valleys. They are true bush birds, frequenting the scrub-bush, and are rarely found outside, except when feeding in the natives' lands. They have a very harsh, loud call, uttered usually in the early morning and evening, which sounds in the distance just like the yelping of a dog. When flushed they usually perch in a tree, and when flying utter a short "kek kek."

280. *COTURNIX DELAGORGUEI* (Delag.). Harlequin Quail.

I received a skin of a fine adult male of this species from Mr. Allison, shot on the 20.7.08. Mr. Allison states that he saw one or two others, but did not secure them.

281. *CREX EGREGIA*, Ptrs. African Crake.

Sgt. E. M. Heale, C.M.R., sent me a pair shot near Bizana on the 28.12.08.

282. *SAROTHRURA RUFA* (Vieill.). Red-chested Crake.

I shot a single adult female in a marsh near Flagstaff on the 31.12.07. I have seen no others.

283. *FULICA CRISTATA*, Gm. Red-knobbed Coot.

Sgt. Heale informs me that he has shot several of these birds near the Umtamvuna mouth.

284. *OTIS CAFRA*, Lcht. Stanley Bustard.

Although I suspected that this species, as well as *O. ludwigi*, occurred on the flats near the sea, I never could procure one for identification. Sgt. Heale, however, tells me that both species occur there, this one being the commoner, and that he had shot several, the largest weighing 17 lbs. He says they disappear during the summer months.

285. *ROSTRATULA BENGALENSIS* (L.). Painted Snipe.

I have received a single adult male from Sgt. Heale, shot near Bizana, but have not heard of any others having been shot in Pondoland.

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Since writing the above paper, I have collected the two following birds:—

286. *HIERAËTUS PENNATUS* (Gm.). Booted Eagle.

I shot an adult female in beautiful plumage of this species near my camp on the Umtamvuna River. This bird had been stealing our chickens for some days, and when killed the crop contained the remains of a young chicken. This species is, I think, rare, and I have not previously met with it.

287. *HIERAËTUS SPILOGASTER* ([Du Bus] Bp.). African Hawk-Eagle.

I received the skin of a male bird of this species from Mr. Allison, which he had shot near Palmerton in the Lusikisiki District. He informed me that he had shot another of the same species, but larger, probably a female. I have not met with it myself.

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III.—On a new Species of Flycatcher from Rhodesia.

By ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S. &c.

*HYLIOTA RHODESIÆ*, nov. sp.

Similar to *H. australis*, but differing markedly in some respects. Like that species it has no metallic coloration in the plumage, but differing in that the inner secondaries are broadly margined on the outside with white, the remainder as well as the primaries (excepting the two outermost) narrowly edged with white. No mention of this is made in the original description of Captain Shelley ('Ibis,' 1882, p. 258), nor is there any sign of it in the plate (pl. 7. fig. 1).

Another marked difference is that the outer tail-feather on either side is crossed by a broad white bar.

*Description*.—General colour dull blackish brown, paler on the head and mantle, darker on the wings and tail. Rump regions as in *australis*. Wing as in *australis* except the above-mentioned points. The tail-feathers are blackish; the outermost with the outer web white from the black tip to within about 10 mm. of the root of the tail, the *basal portion of the feather being black*. A broad white bar across the whole feather near the tip, the other edge slightly sprinkled with black, thereby somewhat interrupting the white band. Entire under surface creamy ochreous, darker on the breast, inclining to pure creamy on the abdomen. Thighs and under wing-coverts white.

Total length 125 mm.; wing 69·5; tail 43; culmen 11·8.

This specimen is in the Albany Museum, No. 282, Matoppos, Rhodesia, June 1903 (*R. Williams*).

*Remarks.*—As this bird is not sexed, and no sexes are given to any of the specimens of *australis* mentioned in lists subsequent to Shelley's original description, I cannot say whether this may not turn out a specimen of *H. australis* after all.

This, however, is very unlikely, as a seasonal, juvenile, or sexual difference would hardly occur in the coloration of the tail-feathers.

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IV.—*Field-Notes on the "Woodbush Warbler"* (Hemipteryx minuta, Gunn.). By F. VAUGHAN-KIRBY, F.Z.S.

THE following brief notes upon the haunts and habits of the little Woodbush Warbler may be of interest to readers of the Journal.

This bird, it will be remembered, was described by Dr. Gunning in the April number of the Journal (1909, vol. v. no. 1) from specimens brought by me from the Woodbush early in the previous year.

I again met with it during August 1909, when collecting in the Groote Spelonken, and was enabled to make the observations which form the subject of this article. My first acquaintance with this Warbler in the Woodbush led me to think that it was of comparatively rare occurrence, but from my experiences in the Spelonken—where I had exceptionally favourable opportunities of closely watching it—I am of opinion that the rank growth of grass which everywhere covered the Woodbush Hill sufficiently accounts for its apparent scarcity. In the Spelonken I tramped through many miles of similar grass and only saw one specimen, but fortunately there were also large areas of "old burns," and there I frequently met with the little creature. I never saw them, however, on *freshly* burnt ground.

When found in long grass it invariably adopts a definite line of action: a sudden rise at one's feet, a short, quick, low flight to some swaying grass-stem, a momentary pause as it clings thereto, then a dive—as sudden as its rise—into

the shelter of the surrounding cover, whence I have never yet succeeded in again flushing it. But in the burnt areas when the young grass has commenced to sprout these little *Hemipteryx* may be observed at leisure, and their frequent occurrence in such localities suggests that open, sparsely-grassed veld in their chosen habitat.

During the heat of the day they seem to hide away in undiscoverable spots, but up till 10 A.M. and the evening after 4 P.M. they could always be found in places such as described above.

At a spot about half a mile away from my camp I counted seven of these birds on a sloping hill-side, near a stream, in company with a pair of *Pratincola torquata*, a single *Macronyx croceus*, and three *Anthus nicholsoni*. They run swiftly, pausing every now and then to look around, irresistibly reminding one of the Larks and Pipits. They take short flights, however, more frequently than these birds. If one walks after them, but not pushing them too closely, they invariably seek to escape by running along the ground. Their wonderfully protective coloration and skill in hiding themselves make them exceedingly difficult birds to pick up. Every projecting grass-tuft, every tiny inequality in the surface of the ground is utilised for their secretive purposes. I have frequently drawn up to one of these little beings, after carefully watching it as it disappeared behind a little bunch of burnt twigs, or a skeleton grass-tuft, until I dare not advance another yard for fear of dismembering it if I used my gun. There stands the tuft—there is not apparently the tiniest vestige of cover for many yards around, but *Hemipteryx* has vanished! Sometimes by following up the general direction of pursuit a tiny fawn-coloured spot may be seen, apparently resting on the ground; this suddenly resolves itself into the head and neck of the bird itself, looking out from behind a minute depression, but it is off again at once, running, dodging, doubling, and hiding as before. If pushed, they spring up suddenly into the air, pursue a quick erratic flight (about 4 feet from the ground) for about 30 or 40 yards, then drop to earth again



and take to their legs. During such flight they are as difficult to hit as a Button Quail.

When closely, but quietly, watched they strike the observer as being of a highly mercurial temperament. Never still, always progressing with short, jerky little runs, hither and thither over the irregular surface, moving rapidly for a few feet, then pausing for a moment perhaps to seize some insect dainty, and again resuming its onward progress. On one occasion I watched a pair playing together; these repeatedly flew up one after the other into the air, alighting again quickly. Occasionally, but very seldom, one of them perched on a low shrub, or rather clung to its stem, paused thus for an instant, then flew down to rejoin its mate. They remained playing thus, within a radius of about 30 yards from my watch-place, for over an hour; at the expiration of this time they flew together to the stream and dropped into the reeds, whence I could not see them emerge.

The natives say they make their nest low down in the fork of a small shrub; I did not, however, meet with any.

Dr. Gunning in describing the species does not apparently recognise any sexual difference of coloration. It appeared to me, from the mutilated remains of two males which I shot, that the mantle and interscapulars of the male are slightly darker than in the female, whilst the upper tail-coverts are of a more pronounced red-brown. This may be merely slight local variation. The wings of the two males measured respectively 50 and 50·5 mm.

The only call I heard these birds utter consisted of three sharp chirrups, and this but seldom.

In the stomachs of all I have examined I have found only the remains of ants, with the exception of one male, which, in addition to ants, contained the wings of some small fly.

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V.—*Some Remarks on the Migration of the White Stork*  
(*Ciconia ciconia*). By ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S. &c.

By means of the practical experiment of marking Storks with an aluminium ring, now adopted by our ornithological

friends in Germany and Hungary, it has been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that birds from the northern part of Europe wend their way southwards, across the Equator to the heart of South Africa. Seebohm's idea was that the migrants from furthest north go furthest south, while Mr. W. L. Sclater, in the case of the Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*), suggests the reverse (Journal S. A. O. A. vol. ii. No. 1, p. 17). This matter can only be satisfactorily settled where a complete chain of observers exists between north and south. This desirable position may not be so very far ahead, as in British East Africa a Natural History Society has just been formed, and I have already been in communication with its Secretary as to the probability of co-operating in this important work. The reply received from Mr. Sergeant (the Secretary) was very satisfactory. When we know the dates the birds leave North and South Europe, and arrive in North, Central, and South Africa, something like a positive result can be expected. It is with the hope of inducing *all* our Members, as well as those of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, to do their best in the matter of observing, that these few remarks are penned. If a Member cannot find time to observe and report upon all the migrants mentioned in our circulars, then let him confine himself to the White Stork for the present.

These birds, as is well known, breed in Europe, and the method adopted by the followers of the Vogelwarte Rossitten and the Hungarian Bureau of Ornithology is to mark the young birds (fledglings) in the nest before they fly. This marking is done by means of an aluminium ring, so light and so loosely fitted on the leg that no harmful effect on the bird is noticed.

The following record of ringed Storks obtained in South Africa will prove the efficacy of the method adopted :—

(a) Marked by the Vogelwarte Rossitten :—(1) Fort Jameson ; (2) Kalahari Desert ; (3) Morija, Basutoland ; (4) Maluti Mountains, near Maseru, Basutoland.

(b) Marked by the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau :—



- (1) Polela, Natal; (2) Lake Banagher, Ermelo Dist., Tvl.; (3) Glencoe, Natal; (4) Morija, Basutoland; (5) Senekal, O.F.S.

A few particulars of some of these Storks will interest my readers. The two first mentioned (Nos. 1265 & 1416) from Basutoland were ringed in East Prussia in June 1908, and were procured in Basutoland in January and February 1909 by natives, and reported to me by our energetic Member of Council for that country, Mr. J. P. Murray. The bird procured at Lake Banagher on the 22nd November, 1909, was marked at Bogyan, in Hungary (No. 1415), on the 16th June of the same year.

Although recorded from the Cape Division in the west, and Port Elizabeth in the east, the occurrence of the White Stork so far south is rare.

Mr. John Wood, of East London, says it has never been found at that place, although he records it from Stutterheim, some distance to the north; Trevelyan observed it at Kingwilliamstown; and Sgt. C. G. Davies, C. M. Rifles, at Flagstaff, in Pondoland. In the Transvaal it is common in most districts from November to February or March.

The earliest authentic dates of its occurrence in South Africa are—20th September, 1907, at Komatipoort (Major Hamilton); 26th September, 1907, at Modderfontein, Dist. Pretoria (Haagner); and 28th September, 1908, at Ermelo (C. H. Taylor).

In January and February of this year the White Stork seemed to be pretty widely distributed over South Africa. I saw the bird in small scattered troops all along the line from Pretoria to Zuurfontein in January, and between the 3rd and 6th of March observed them in small flocks near Heidelberg, Standerton, and Volksrust. At the latter place they were widely scattered over the veld; I saw them in twos and threes up to dozen individuals together all the way from Volksrust to near Majuba. No locusts were to be seen; however, they may have just been hatching out.

During the heavy rains which prevailed at the time, I noticed the birds betook themselves to the higher ground.

Mr. Frank Pym, of Kingwilliamstown, C.C., reports the Storks in flocks of 50 to 100 on the 25th January, disappearing in a north-easterly direction on the 20th February. He says locusts were not to be seen, but there were an unusually large number of grasshoppers, which probably accounts for the birds three weeks' sojourn in that district. The last Stork seen by me was on the 30th March, when a solitary individual, which had been frequenting a barley-field near the zoo, suddenly disappeared.

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VI.—*Obituary.* Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE, Asst. Keeper,  
British Museum.

(Plate I.)

SOUTH AFRICAN ornithologists will be sorry to hear of the sudden death of Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE, whose name is indelibly stamped upon their memory by his edition of E. L. Layard's well-known 'Birds of South Africa.' Dr. Sharpe was an honorary member of many ornithological societies, as well as that of our Union. The following brief notice of his life is taken from the London 'Times' of 31st December, 1909:—

“Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

“We regret to announce that Dr. Richard Bowdler Sharpe, the well-known ornithologist, and an Assistant Keeper in the Department of Zoology at the Natural History Museum, died on Christmas Day at his house in Barrowgate Road, Chiswick.

“Richard Bowdler Sharpe was born in London on November 22, 1847, and was the eldest son of Mr. Thomas Bowdler Sharpe, publisher, of Cookham and Malvern Link. He was educated at Brighton, and at Peterborough and Loughborough Grammar Schools. In 1863 he entered the service of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Sons, and after a year with Mr. Bernard Quaritch he became in 1867 the first Librarian to the Zoological Society of London, a post which he held until 1872, when he joined the British Museum as Senior Assistant in the Department of Zoology, to become an Assistant Keeper in 1895.



Maul & Fox

British Birds  
Vol. III Pl. 13

*J. B. Borrother Drayke*

*Born Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1817 Died Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1909.*



“ Dr. Bowdler Sharpe’s principal work lay in ornithology, in which subject he worked more as an editor and classifier than as a field observer. Of the monumental catalogue of birds in the British Museum in 27 volumes, he was responsible for the greater part; the first four volumes of the ‘Hand-List of Birds’ were also his work; while with Dresser in 1871 he began the publication of the ‘Birds of Europe,’ one of the completest works of its kind, which was finished by his collaborator in eight volumes in 1879. Among other works on ornithology are his monographs on Kingfishers, Swallows, and Birds of Paradise. The first of these, on the family of Kingfishers, published 40 years ago, at once brought a reputation to its youthful author, and described 125 species of the Alcedinidæ, grouped into 19 genera and divided into two subfamilies, Alcedininæ and Daceloninæ. Among other works Dr. Sharpe edited Allen’s ‘Natural History’ and White’s ‘Natural History of Selborne,’ to which he was enabled to add, as he explained in his preface, a good deal of matter of interest to lovers of Gilbert White, having spent some weeks in Selborne for the purpose.”

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#### VII.—Occasional Notes.

1. Dr. OTTO HERMAN, of the Royal Hungarian Bureau of Ornithology, and Mr. J. A. Allen, of the American Museum of Natural History, desire to thank the Members of the S. A. O. U. for the honour conferred upon them at the Bloemfontein meeting.

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2. THE HON. SECRETARY has received a letter from the Hon. Sec. of the “East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society” (in reply to one from him), welcoming the idea to collaborate in the important matter of Bird Migration. It is only when the link between North and South is more or less complete that we can hope for certain knowledge as to the actual movements of the Northern migrants.

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3. MEMBERS of the Union may be glad to hear that Mr. Haagner, who has been the Hon. Secretary of their Association since its inception, and Joint-Editor of the 'Journal' since 1907, has been honoured by the Hungarian Government, the Royal Hungarian Minister of Agriculture having conferred on him a "Diploma" as Hon. Member of the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau of Ornithology. The British Ornithologists' Union has also honoured him by electing him a "Colonial" Member of their Union.

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4. BI-ANNUAL NIDIFICATION OF BLACK-CHESTED WREN-WARBLER.—An instance of bi-annual nidification has recently come under my observation which may be of sufficient interest to publish. About a month ago a pair of Black-chested Wren-Warblers (*Prinia flavicans*) were to be seen carrying material about the flower-garden here, evidently with the object of building a nest. On looking about I located the nest in a may-bush almost finished. Sparrows are in the habit of building extra-warm nests to sleep in during the winter, and I thought that this nest was built for a similar reason. I was much surprised, therefore, when I found three eggs in it ten days later. They were of the usual type. To-day, on examining the nest, the old birds made a great fuss, and I found the funny little young ones had deserted the nest and were in hiding, looking very cold and miserable, in the neighbouring hedges.

The breeding-season for these Warblers is during the hottest months of the year, and this occurrence is such an unusual one that it is hard to account for.

Pretoria, 8.7.09.

AUSTIN ROBERTS.

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5. RECORD OF GARDEN WARBLER AT PORT ELIZABETH.—Last month a specimen of the Garden Warbler (*Sylvia simplex*) was shot at Perseverance, which is a railway station

a few miles from Port Elizabeth. It was procured by Mr. A. W. Ryneveld, who complained that it ate his figs. I see Sclater mentions it has this habit, but states that it has not been known to occur as far south as our Colony.

Port Elizabeth,  
8. 5. 1910.

F. W. FITZSIMONS,  
Director P. E. Museum.

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6. SOFT PARTS OF NARINA TROGON.—I note in Journal, vol. iii. no. 2, page 192, some remarks on the coloration of the soft parts of the Narina Trogon by Mr. C. G. Davies. I should like to state that on 7th September, 1903, I shot two Trogons in a kloof on the farm Sunsklip, adjoining this farm. I watched them for two days before getting a shot at them, and noticed their slow and dipping flight, also that gaily coloured as the bird is, it was most difficult to see, either at rest or in flight. No note was heard from either bird. They kept well aloft in the trees of the kloof, seeming to prefer dead branches to settle upon. The one is now in the S. A. Museum, and is the Narina Trogon that Sclater states he got from Sabi Dst. of Lydenburg, as I sent him the skin. The soft parts are accurately described by Mr. Davies, and agree exactly with my notes on them. I thought perhaps it would be well just to verify Mr. Davies's observations, as he states Stark and Sclater give soft parts wrongly. The stomachs contained large grasshoppers and beetles, the elytra of which were very roughly broken, one piece being quite  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. The Narina has never been seen before or since, either by myself or natives, who do not know the bird.

P. O. Sabi, 2. 4. 1910.

J. C. INGLE, F.Z.S.

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7. MARKED HAWK IN SENEKAL, O.F.S.—It has been reported to us by Mr. C. P. van der Merwe, the Assistant Biologist of the Orange Free State, that a Hawk (probably a Sparrow-Hawk, judging from the feather) was shot at Senekal, O.F.S., by J. Grobbelaar, of the Farm



Langkuil, on 20th January, 1910. One of the primary wing-feathers bore the No. 167, on the left leg was an india-rubber ring and on the right an aluminium ring with the legend: "215 JEHS. 08-9." If any one of our readers should know something of the history of the bird, the Editors of this Journal will be pleased to hear from him.

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#### VIII.—*Short Notices of Ornithological Publications.*

##### 1. *The Ibis, a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology.*

April 1909 No. contains "Contributions to the Ornithology of Egypt.—No. II. Birds of the Province of Giza: Part 1," by H. J. Nicoll, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

This is a long list of the birds occurring in the Giza Province of Egypt, by the Assistant Director of the Giza Zoological Gardens, although the author himself doubts its completeness. It is illustrated by a fine lithographic plate of *Scotocerca inquieta* (Cretzschm.).

July 1909 contains Part 2 of Mr. Nicoll's just mentioned paper. We have here also a continuation of Mr. A. L. Butler's "Contributions to the Ornithology of the Sudan," the portion under notice relating to the birds observed on the Red Sea coast in May 1908. Of more interest to South African ornithologists than the above-mentioned papers is one by Gerard H. Gurney, F.Z.S. &c., entitled "Notes on a Collection of Birds made in British East Africa." The field-notes are in many cases excellent, and there are of course many references to well-known South African species.

October 1909. This number commences with an article on the birds of Cyprus by our one-time Editor and President Mr. J. A. Bucknill, M.A., &c. Part 3 of Mr. Nicoll's "Contributions to the Ornithology of Egypt (Province of Giza)" also appears herein. We have also the description of a new bird (with coloured plate): *Pseudocalyptomena graueri*, genus et species nova.



2. *The Aquila: Organ of the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau of Ornithology.* Edited by Dr. Otto Herman.

We have received vol. xvi. of 1909, and it teems with interesting matter. Of most interest to us is an account of the accomplishments of the Royal Hungarian Bureau by its veteran Director, Dr. Herman, which includes an account of the ringing experiment of the White Stork and its first result in South Africa, viz. the bird shot in Polela, Natal. This is accompanied by a sketch-map showing the bird's flight from Hungary to South Africa. Dr. Herman also gives excerpts of our first migration report. Following this "sketch" is an "In Memoriam" of the late Professor Newton, including the correspondence between the revered ornithologist and Dr. Herman. This is succeeded by a comparison of species observed in Western Liberia and Africa by Dr. Finsch. The bulk of the volume is, however, naturally given to the 15th Annual Report of the Bureau on the Migration in Hungary during the spring of 1908. This is illustrated by very clear plates—both coloured and plain—of some of the species. An account of the ringing of birds with a list of the stations, &c., by Jakob Schenek, is also worthy of our study.

3. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, vol. xxiv.

Report on the immigrations of summer residents in the spring of 1908, &c. Few birds in this, the 4th Report of the Migration Committee of the British Ornithologists' Club, are of interest to the South African ornithologists. We notice the date of the earliest Spotted Flycatcher is April 27th. The Pretoria Zoo was full of these birds the first week in March, but by the 16th the majority of them had departed. The earliest date given for the Red-backed Shrike is 21st April, and that of the European Cuckoo as April 1st.

4. *A History of the Birds of Kent.* By Norman F. Ticehurst.

We have, through the courtesy of the publishers Messrs. Witherby & Co., of London, received a copy of this well got up book of moderate price. To ornithologists of the county of Kent in particular, and of England in general, it must be of great interest. We even as South Africans find it very interesting reading, the reproductions of old plates with which it is illustrated being of special interest.

5. We have received Pamphlet No. 1656 of the 'Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum,' which is a list of "Generic Names applied to Birds during the Years 1901 to 1905 inclusive," with further additions to Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium,' by Chas. W. Richmond.

6. An interesting little paper with diagrammatic sketches appears in the 'Ornithologisches Jahrbuch,' Jahrgang 7, No. 3, "On the Holding of the Foot of Birds in Flight," by Dr. Richard Biedermann.

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No. 2.

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IX.—*Remarks upon some further (mostly hitherto undescribed or unfigured) Eggs of certain South African Birds.* By JOHN A. BUCKNILL, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., and G. HENRIK GRÖNVOLD.

(Plate II.)

TURDUS CABANISI [Bp.], Cab. Cabanis's Thrush. (Pl. II. fig. 1.)

The egg figured is one of a clutch of three taken at Kromdraai, in Natal, on November 9th, 1903, by Mr. Austin Roberts. The eggs are now in the collection of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

The clutch was previously shortly described by Mr. Bucknill in this Journal (October 1908, p. 83), but the egg of this species does not seem to have been described before that date or figured prior to the representation on the plate exhibited to this paper.

The eggs are of bluish-green ground-colour, one slightly lighter and more yellowish than the others. They exhibit (a) underlying blotches and spots of lavender and yellowish-lavender, some pale and some well defined; (b) umber-brown surface-spots of about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in diameter.

The above markings are evenly and fairly boldly distributed over the whole of the eggs, whilst in addition there are

—also similarly distributed—a number of small and minute spots of the above colours, though the ground-colour is still left quite conspicuous.

The shell is rather smooth and the surface somewhat glossy : shape oval.

Sizes :  $27.0 \times 21.7$ ;  $25.7 \times 21.9$ ;  $27.6 \times 21.6$  mm.

*POLIOHIERAX SEMITORQUATUS* (A. Sm.). Pigmy Falcon. (Pl. II. fig. 2.)

The egg figured is a single specimen taken on the 15th October, 1905, at Wolmaranstad, in the Transvaal, by Mr. Austin Roberts. It is now in the collection of the Transvaal Museum at Pretoria.

This specimen was shortly described by Mr. Bucknill in this Journal (October 1908, p. 96), but the egg does not appear to have been previously known or figured.

The egg is of an uniform whitish-cream colour, with some very faint buffish-cream blotches on the obtuse end (which are very probably nest-stains).

The shell is finely granulated and the surface dull : shape oval.

Size :  $28.0 \times 22.9$  mm.

*AMYDRUS MORIO* (L.). Red-winged Starling. (Pl. II. fig. 3.)

The egg figured is one of a clutch of three taken in a krantz at Worsthill, near Grahamstown, Cape Colony, by Mr. Bertram E. Jupp, on October 25th, 1902. Mr. Jupp's collection is at present in the possession of the South Kensington Natural History Museum. The egg of this species is, of course, well known, but has not been hitherto satisfactorily figured. In this Journal (October 1908, pp. 74, 75) Mr. Bucknill described several clutches from Natal and Cape Colony.

The eggs of this species vary a good deal in shape, and the specimen figured belongs to the somewhat extremely elongated type which is not uncommon.

The eggs of this species do not vary much in colour or markings, and the subjoined description of the specimen

figured may be taken as fairly typical of those which the authors have handled.

The ground-colour is of a rather light bluish green with spots of black, reddish brown, and lavender, from the size of a medium pin's head downwards; these spots are freely scattered over the whole shell, but most numerous at the obtuse end. The black spots are largely predominant.

The surface is smooth and not very glossy. Shape from "ovate" to "cylindrical ovate."

In size the maximum length of those measured was 37.0 mm.; minimum length 30.0 mm.; maximum breadth 25.2 mm.; minimum breadth 22.0 mm. Mean length of ten 33.9 mm.; mean breadth of ten 23.6 mm.

*COLIUS INDICUS*, Lath. Red-faced Mouse-Bird. (Pl. II. fig. 4.)

= *erythromelon*, Reichenow, Die Vögel Africas, vol. ii. p. 208.

The egg figured is one of a pair taken at Oatlands, Natal, in December 1902, and is from the Jupp collection. The egg of this bird does not seem to have been previously figured.

The ground-colour is a light cream, with a few small scribblings and some bolder spots of dark purplish brown distributed over the whole surface, occurring, however, most closely at the broader portion.

The surface is very finely granulated and almost devoid of any gloss.

Sizes :  $21.0 \times 16.0$  ;  $21.1 \times 16.0$  mm.

*APALIS FLORISUGA* [Leht.], Rehw. Yellow-bellied Bush-Warbler. (Pl. II. fig. 5.)

*Apalis florisuga*, Rehw. Bd. iii. p. 610.

*Chlorodyta neglecta*, Alex., Scl. vol. ii. Birds of S. A.

The egg figured is a single specimen from the Jupp collection, taken in January 1904 at Blaauw Krantz in Eastern Cape Colony.

The ground-colour is a very light greenish white; the obtuse end is covered with round spots, from the size of a small pin's head downwards, which are of a reddish-brown

and lavender colour, those of the former tint strongly predominating; these spots grow fewer towards the narrower end of the egg, the apex being quite unspotted.

The surface is smooth and somewhat glossy: shape ovate.

Size:  $15.0 \times 11.0$  mm.

[The egg of this species has already been figured (Journal S. A. O. U. June 1907, pl. iii. fig. 5), but as this example seems to differ considerably in shape and markings we figure it again.—EDD.]

CINNYRIS AFER (Linn.). Greater Double-collared Sunbird. (Pl. II. fig. 6.)

The egg figured is one of a clutch of two from the Jupp collection, taken in January 1904 at Blaauw Krantz, near Grahamstown. The egg of this Sunbird does not seem to have been figured before.

In this clutch the ground-colour is greyish or greenish-grey, spotted and lined with very small blackish-brown markings; surrounding these markings lie ill-defined splashes of a tint rather darker than the ground-colour of the shell, giving a cloudy appearance to the whole.

In a second clutch of two eggs (from the same locality and collection) one of the pair is without any blackish-brown markings whatever, the surface being merely blotched as before described, the cloudy effect being thus much intensified; in the second egg, on the other hand, the dark spots and scribbings are larger and bolder than in either of the eggs of the first clutch, whilst there are also noticeable some few small spots of a lavender-grey tint.

The surface is smooth and dull: the shape ovate.

Sizes: mean length  $18.25$  mm.; mean breadth  $13.50$  mm.

TARSIGER STELLATUS (Vieill.) White-starred Bush-Robin. (Pl. II. fig. 7.)

The egg figured is one of a clutch of three taken on February 2nd, 1900, at Kilgobbin, Natal, by Mr. Austin Roberts. The clutch is now in the possession of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

This clutch was described in this Journal (October 1908,

pp. 87, 88) by Mr. Bucknill. The egg of this species does not appear to have hitherto been figured.

The ground-colour is of a creamy tint ; the larger portion of the obtuse half of the egg is thickly splashed with pale pink-buff and faint lavender blotches, which at the pole are sufficiently thick to hide the ground-colour ; the lower portion of the egg, with the exception of a few scattered marks, is almost free from spots, though a number of very fine dots of pale pink-buff are found over the whole shell.

The surface is smooth and slightly glossy : shape ovate.

Sizes :  $25.0 \times 16.8$  ;  $22.6 \times 16.5$  ;  $22.8 \times 16.0$  mm.

*EUTOLMAËTUS SPILOGASTER* [Dubus], Bp. African Hawk Eagle. (Pl. II. fig. 8.)

The egg figured is one of a pair taken on the 9th July, 1904, in Matabeleland by Mr. C. Wilde. The male bird was shot off the nest. The eggs are now in the Transvaal Museum. The clutch was shortly described by Mr. Bucknill in this Journal (October 1908, pp. 71 & 97), but the egg of this species does not appear to have been hitherto figured.

The ground-colour of the egg figured is a dull white ; the entire surface is covered with minute pale brown spots confluent in many parts and forming irregular patches of fairly large size, particularly towards the obtuse end of the egg. In the second egg the patches are almost entirely confined to the narrower half of the egg ; the obtuse end is almost free from colouring and the markings are, throughout, much fainter.

The surface is finely granulated and without gloss : shape a somewhat pointed oval.

Sizes :  $69.5 \times 53.5$  ;  $69.0 \times 52.7$  mm.

*KAUPIFALCO MONOGRAMMICUS* (Temm.). African Buzzard Eagle. (Pl. II. fig. 9.)

The egg figured was taken from the oviduct of a female shot by a friend of Mr. A. L. Butler on March 27th, 1907, at Khor Gitti, Sudan [*vide* 'The Ibis,' 1908, p. 253]. Mr. Butler kindly lent this egg for the purposes of this paper.



In this Journal (October 1908, p. 98) Mr. Bucknill described an egg believed to be of this species taken by Mr. C. Wilde in Matabeleland, and now in the Transvaal Museum ; but the colouring does not at all agree with that of the egg now figured, and Mr. Wilde probably made a mistake in identification. Luckily Mr. Butler's egg was available for comparison and was plated instead of Mr. Wilde's, thus avoiding any possibility of error. The egg of this species has not previously been figured.

The ground-colour is a uniform very light blue.

The surface is densely and finely pitted and dull : shape oval.

Size :  $42.5 \times 35.5$  mm.

*RHINOPOMASTUS CYANOMELAS* (Vieill.). Scimitar-billed Hoopoe. (Pl. II. fig. 10.)

The egg figured is one of a clutch of four taken on the 22nd October, 1904, at Potchefstroom, Transvaal, by Mr. Austin Roberts. They are now in the collection of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria. The egg of this species does not appear to have been figured hitherto.

The egg is of a uniform bluish green. Surface smooth and glossy : shape an elongated oval.

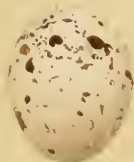
Sizes :  $24.0 \times 15.8$  ;  $23.9 \times 15.9$  ;  $23.9 \times 15.9$  ;  $23.0 \times 16.0$  mm.

*STEPHANIBYX MELANOPTERUS* (Cretzschm.). (Pl. II. fig. 11.)

The discovery of the eggs of this species was made in 1906 by Mr. Claude Taylor, and a description of the nesting-habits of the bird and of some clutches of its eggs was given by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Bucknill in this Journal (vol. iii. 1907, p. 40).

The eggs were all taken in early September 1906 at Indhlovodwalitie, Amsterdam District, Transvaal. Mr. Taylor presented clutches to the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, the Cambridge Natural History Museum, and the South Kensington Natural History Museum, the egg figured being one







from the clutch of three in the possession of the last of these institutions.

The eggs vary little and those of each clutch hardly at all. The ground-colour is olive-buff with some underlying markings of lavender; the surface is rather evenly and freely splashed with rounded spots of dark and light sepia.

The surface is smooth and without gloss: shape "ovate-pyriform."

Sizes: average  $43\cdot0 \times 30\cdot0$  mm.

It may, perhaps, be added that the expressions of colour and shape used in this paper are taken from Ridgway's 'Nomenclature of Colors.'

London, October 1909.

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X.—*Notes on the Plumage of the Mountain Chat*  
(*Saxicola monticola*, Bechst.). By C. G. DAVIES, M.B.O.U.

As the different plumages of the Mountain Chat have been a puzzle to writers on S. African ornithology for many years, and even now are little understood, I venture to hope that the following notes may be of interest, and may perhaps help towards the final settlement of this question.

Before proceeding with my own observations, it will perhaps be advisable to give a short summary of some of the previous literature on the subject.

In the volume of the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for the year 1874, p. 213, Messrs. Blanford and Dresser gave an important monograph of the genus *Saxicola*, Bechstein, and in writing of the Mountain Chat, divided it into five species, viz., *Saxicola monticola*, *leucomelena*, *diluta*, *griseiceps*, and *castor*, being led astray by the different plumages assumed by this species.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, in the first volume of his edition of Layard's 'Birds of S. Africa,' followed the example of the

above authors, but added another species, viz. *S. anderssoni*, adding, however, a note, of which the following is an extract:—" . . . . But in stating our views it must be admitted that the changes of plumage are so little understood that it is quite possible that our conclusions will require further modification . . . . "

Mr. Seebohm, in vol. v. of the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, reduced the number of species to two, viz., *S. leucomelæna* and *S. monticola*, with two subspecies, viz., *S. leucomelæna monticola* and *S. monticola leucomelæna* ; but, at the same time, propounded the theory that the two latter might, as well as other forms, be caused through the interbreeding of the two species : he, however, fell into the error of ascribing all the birds in grey plumage to the female sex, in spite of the fact that many of the specimens examined by him had been sexed by the collectors as males.

In the volume of 'The Ibis' for 1883, p. 331, Messrs. Butler, Feilden, and Reid wrote a long and interesting article on this species, in which they gave their opinion that from observations made in the field, and from a large series of specimens collected by themselves in Natal, they had come to the conclusion that there was only one species, viz. *S. monticola*, which passed through a regular series of plumage-changes from black to grey. They illustrated this theory by a list of nine plumage stages.

Dr. R. B. Sharpe, in the same volume of 'The Ibis,' wrote an article in which he, after having examined the series of this species in the British Museum, came to the conclusion that the theory of the above authors was the correct one.

In the volume of 'The Ibis' for 1887, Mr. Seebohm, in an article on Natal birds, while admitting that he had made a mistake in the matter of the females, declined to admit the correctness of the theory of Messrs. Butler, Feilden, and Reid. He stated his reasons, and considered that, in his opinion, the above authors had produced no proof, and still adhered to his opinion that the different varieties were caused by interbreeding.

Mr. W. L. Selater, in the second volume of the Birds of the 'Fauna of S. Africa' series, apparently agrees with Messrs. Butler, Feilden, and Reid, but gives only seven stages of plumage.

Since October 1909, I have, in the district of Matatiele, E. Griqualand, where the Mountain Chat is fairly common, devoted a good deal of my time to observing and collecting specimens of this species. As the result of my observations, and thinking carefully over the matter, I have come to the conclusion that Mr. Seebohm's theory is the nearest to the truth.

Although being unable to disprove the theory of Messrs. Butler, Feilden, and Reid, I am not inclined to agree with it, as some of my observations do not altogether agree with theirs.

My own theory is a modification of Mr. Seebohm's, but with this difference, that instead of there being two species, that there is only one, which is dimorphous, *i. e.*, having two forms, a black and a grey one, and that all the intermediate plumages between the two extremes may be caused through the interbreeding of the two. I do not consider the fact that the females do not vary much in colour to be against my theory, as it is well known that among many nearly allied species of birds, of which the males differ very much from one another, the females are almost indistinguishable (a case in point is *Pyromelana orix* and *P. taha*).

Now I think that if it was the case that the males of *S. monticola* changed gradually through a regular sequence of plumages from black to grey, the birds in the plumage intermediate between the two extremes would be as common as the latter, whereas I have found this far from being the case; in fact, that while I could have secured a large number of both black and grey birds, I have had considerable difficulty in getting specimens in intermediate plumages.

Messrs. Butler, Feilden, and Reid give as one of the reasons for believing the grey birds to be the oldest is their scarcity; but I have found this form, if not the commonest,

quite as common as the black birds, and, curiously enough, as a rule much tamer than either the latter or the birds in intermediate plumage.

The weak spot in my theory is that, so far, I have not succeeded in finding a male changing direct from the first black plumage into the grey plumage; but, on the other hand, such moulting birds as I have met with have been changing into a plumage exactly similar to the previous one, after allowing for the old feathers being worn and discoloured.

I advance the above theory for what it is worth, and am quite ready to admit that I may be wrong. The only way I can think of settling the question is for some of our Members, who have the time and opportunity, to get young birds of this species and try and rear them in captivity, and make careful notes on the changes of plumage. This should not be difficult, as the Mountain Chat is a hardy bird and should make an attractive inmate for the aviary.

I would note here that *S. monticola* only moults once in the year, viz. in autumn, and therefore those who wish to collect specimens and get a correct idea of their plumages should shoot them in the early winter, as in the spring and summer the plumage becomes so worn and abraded that it is hard to get a good idea of the original colour.

The following are some of the principal plumages as observed by me:—

1. Brownish black, with white rump and base of outer tail-feathers, females and young males; but I shot a young male, hardly fledged, with white shoulders, this skin is now in the Transvaal Museum.
2. Black with white shoulders: in this plumage there is usually a more or less distinct shade of grey on the crown and nape, when in good plumage. Common.
3. Black with white shoulders. The crown and nape pale grey, contrasting strongly with the jet-black of the rest of the plumage. Scarce.

*Note.*—The form in which the crown is *white* does not occur in these parts. This form was formerly

known as *S. leucomelana*, and might be retained as a subspecies under the above name.

4. Grey with white shoulders, but the mantle and underparts much darker than the head. Scarce.
5. Grey with grey shoulders, the shoulders paler than the rest of plumage. Common.
6. Grey with white shoulders. Common.

I consider that the amount of white on the underparts, like that on the tail, to be purely an individual variation, some birds having more, some less, when otherwise in the same plumage.

The females also vary slightly in depth of colouring, some being darker in colour, some much lighter.

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XI.—*Field-Notes on some little-known Birds, including two new Species, from Observations made during the Nesting-Season of 1909 near Beira, P.E.A.* By P. A. SHEPPARD.

1. HARRIER HAWK. *Polyboroides typicus*, H. Smith.

A nest was found on Sept. 19th built in the fork of a tall leafless tree situated on the bank of a stream on the outskirts of a forest, and placed about 40 ft. from the ground. The tree was practically impossible to climb, being very large in the trunk, with smooth bark, and with no branches for at least 25 ft.

On climbing a tree close alongside a good view of the interior of the nest could be obtained from a higher level, and it was found to be empty and not completed.

On examining the nest again on Oct. 17th two eggs were seen, but it was not until a quantity of leaves had been removed from inside the nest that the eggs were discovered, they being entirely covered up. On approaching the nest I could see that it was occupied, and moved cautiously to try to get a shot at the parent bird. Just as I reached the tree the bird left the nest, when I managed to bag it. The male



was circling round high up over the tree. The eggs were obtained by fastening a net on to the end of a long bamboo and carefully scooping them out.

The nest was built of sticks and was a fair-sized structure, approximately 2' 6" in diameter on the outside, deep, and lined with a quantity of leaves, a large proportion of which were nearly fresh and green.

Of the two eggs, one was very much incubated, while the other one was almost clear.

Both eggs are very handsome, the ground-colour being cream, but almost entirely covered with large blotches and markings of a rich red-brown.

Size of eggs :  $2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{16}''$  and  $2\frac{3}{16}'' \times 1\frac{1}{16}''$ .

## 2. AFRICAN BUZZARD EAGLE. *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* (Temm.).

Three nests were found during the season.

No. 1.—On Sept. 14th a pair was noted to have commenced building in a fork of a tree about 25 ft. from the ground on the outskirts of a wood, and easily seen from a distance of fifty yards. Both birds took part in the building. On Sept. 24th the nest was apparently completed, but contained no eggs; examined again on Oct. 7th, two eggs were found, the female flying off the nest on my approaching. Both eggs were quite clear. The nest was built of small branches and lined with finer twigs, roots, and leaves, and measured about 12" to 14" across the inside. I managed to snare the female under the tree by baiting.

Colour of eggs : a dirty creamy white with a few streaks and scrawls of rust-colour at the smaller end only—both eggs similarly marked.

No. 2.—On Oct. 17th I found a nest built in the same kind of tree and in a similar position in the woods as that of No. 1, about 20 ft. above the ground, and containing one egg. Visiting the nest again on Oct. 25th, it still contained only the one egg; the female flew off the nest on my approach. The egg was very much incubated. The female kept close



by all the time, flying from tree to tree, but the male only put in an appearance once and then disappeared.

Colour of the egg : a pale greeny white, with a few scrawls of blood-colour round the larger end.

No. 3.—I watched a nest being built on Nov. 4th, but only saw one bird at work, probably the female. This nest was built in the same kind of tree as Nos. 1 and 2, in the fork of a bough about 30 ft. high. I noticed that the sticks were carried to the nest held in the claws, placed on the nest, and then arranged. I watched the building for about half an hour. On examining the nest again on Nov. 16th I found it contained one young bird and one egg with the bird hatching out. This seems very quick incubation, as on Nov. 4th the nest was only just commenced.

The full clutch of eggs of this species appears to be two, but further observations are necessary.

### 3. CUCKOO FALCON. *Baza verreauxi* (Lafr.).

A nest was discovered on Nov. 11th, built in the top of a young tree about 25 ft. from the ground, inside the branches where they formed a clump of thick foliage. The tree was in fairly open woods.

I located the nest only by the bird, which proved to be the male, flying out, the nest being almost invisible from below. It contained one egg. After waiting for a long time hidden in bushes to get a shot at the birds, I was forced to retire unsuccessful, and returned again later on, but with no better luck. In the evening I visited the nest for the third time, and it was not until practically dark that I managed to get a shot. The female did not put in an appearance the whole day. The nest was built very loosely of sticks, roots, and coarse grasses, &c., and lined with leaves and small bits of stick ; it measured about 16" in diameter and was fairly deep.

The single egg was perfectly clear, and I should imagine a full clutch would consist of more than one.

Colour of egg : pale greenish white, rather sparingly but

fairly evenly spotted and marked in scratches with rich and dull red-brown. Size of egg:  $1\frac{5}{8}'' \times 1\frac{3}{8}''$ .

(Length of bird in flesh  $16\frac{1}{2}''$ .)

4. WHITE-BROWED TINKER BIRD. *Barbatula bilineata* (Sund.).

A nest was found on Dec. 1st, 1909.

Quite by chance, when walking through the woods towards my house one day, I noticed a very small bird on a decayed branch of a large tree, and, waiting for a few seconds, saw it fly off with something in its bill to a bough a few yards away, on reaching which it dropped its burden. This continued for some time, when I discovered that the bird was carrying away bits of decayed wood from a hole it was excavating for nesting purposes, and, furthermore, I identified the bird as the above species. As the tree in which this nest was made stands on the side of a path used daily, I kept observations as far as possible, but always found it difficult to catch the bird at work, in fact I only saw it on two occasions after the first discovery.

On Dec. 11th I shot a male of this species about 80–100 yards distant from this tree which possibly may have belonged to this nest. The following day I examined the nest and found the female inside. She flew out after a time and settled on a bough only a few yards off, and was exceedingly bold and angry, keeping up a continual chatter.

The nest contained two eggs, both of which were broken on extracting them from the nest, and only one could be preserved. The bough containing the nest-hole I kept, and the measurements are as follows:—

Entrance  $1'' \times \frac{7}{8}''$ ; chamber  $4'' \times 2''$ , which was quite clean and bare.

Colour of eggs: pure white, slightly shiny.

Size of egg (1)  $1\frac{1}{6}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ , slightly pointed.

5. WHITE-EARED BARBET. *Buccanodon leucotis* (Sund.).

A nest was found on Dec. 5th, 1909.

After procuring a male, which was on an old decayed tree

on the edge of a forest, I searched for a nesting-hole, which I soon discovered about 20 ft. up the main trunk. The entrance-hole was considerably larger than that usually made by *L. torquatus*. After a few minutes a bird put its head out of the hole. On cutting away the trunk nothing was found in the chamber, which was about 18" deep, and the bird, which I took to be the female, turned out to be a fully fledged young male. No more young birds could be found.

6. LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER. *Coracias caudatus*, L.

Two birds arrived on the plantation the same day (Aug. 28th), and were the first observed of the season. They subsequently built in a hole in a dead tree-stump, evidently the old nesting-site of a Woodpecker: the female I first saw enter the hole on Sept. 15th, and she had great difficulty in getting in and out; the male remained close by all the time, but was not seen to enter the nesting-hole, which was about 30 feet from the ground and about 18 inches deep in the trunk. It contained no lining whatever, the eggs being laid on bits of decayed wood.

The nest was examined on Sept. 26th and contained three pure white eggs, which were a pale pink before blowing; two of the eggs were slightly incubated. All the eggs were exactly the same size, viz.  $1\frac{5}{16}'' \times 1\frac{1}{16}''$ .

From Sept. 16th to Sept. 26th the female was not once seen, although close observations were kept every day; neither was the male once seen to visit the nest, although he was always in the vicinity. On examining the stomach of the female I found it was absolutely empty and the bird very thin.

The female did not fly out until the nest-hole was being cut away, when she settled on a large bough of a tree close by and appeared quite dazed for some time, eventually flying away to settle again only about 200 yards further off. During the time the nest was being examined the male kept on flying from tree to tree close round and making a great disturbance. I eventually procured both birds, and these

were the only two I saw all through the season. They appear to be more numerous nearer Beira, on the flats among low scrub.

7. ORANGE-BREASTED FLYCATCHER. *Batis sheppardi*, Haagner.

A nest was found on Nov. 30th, 1909, built in a small low shrub about three feet high and situated in a somewhat open glade in thick forest.

Neither of the parent birds was to be seen when I found the nest, so I decided to try and snare the female on its nest, as I was quite ignorant of the species to which the nest and eggs belonged.

On returning after about four hours absence I found the female duly snared, which, to my great surprise and pleasure, proved to be the above species.

The two eggs found in the nest were quite clear.

The nest was built of fine grass-stems and ornamented with bits of bamboo-leaves and cobwebs, and was a cup-shape structure  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " diam. inside  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ " deep.

Colour of eggs: creamy white and glossy, sparingly blotched and spotted with light brown, with a thick zone of chocolate-coloured blotches and grey spots at the larger end.

Size: both practically alike,  $1\frac{1}{16}$ "  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ".

The habits of this species are very similar to those of *B. molitor*, with which species it is often found in company, inhabiting thick forests, where it flies about from bough to bough catching insects. It is usually found in parties of three, four, or five, and is a resident here, but far less plentiful than *B. molitor*.

8. CHESTNUT-FRONTED SHRIKE. *Sigmodus scopifrons*, Ptrs.

A nest was found on Nov. 14th built in a tree, about 15 feet above the ground, and situated in open woods.

The nest, which I at first took for that of *D. cubla*, was saddled in a fork towards the extremity of a bough, and appeared so similar to the branch that it could easily have been mistaken for a growth on the tree. The nest contained three young birds apparently just hatched.

After waiting a few minutes quite near the tree, *three birds* flew on to it, and *each one in turn fed the youngsters* and after settling on a bough for a minute or so, continually chattering, flew away, only to return soon after and repeat the performance. I watched these birds feeding the young for about 40 minutes ; to be certain of the identification, I shot one of them, which proved to be a young male. This seems to me to be an extraordinary occurrence, where a young male helps the parents of another nest in feeding their young.

I was unfortunately unable to visit the nest again in time to procure the young birds or the nest, but hope I may be able to produce further records of observations of this interesting bird later on.

9. YELLOW-SPOTTED SHRIKE. *Nicator gularis*, Finsch & Hartl.

A nest was found on Dec. 17th, 1909, built in a low bush in thick woods ; a somewhat rough structure of twigs, grass, fibrous roots, and bits of bamboo-leaves, cup-shape and measuring 3 inches across the top, inside diameter.

The female was snared on the nest to make certain of identification.

The colours of the eggs are so similar to those of *P. layardi* that unless I had the parent bird to prove the species I should certainly have taken them for the Bulbul's ; the blotches of deep rich purple-brown, chiefly at the larger end of the eggs, are rather larger and heavier than on most specimens of *P. layardi*, and a number of lighter brown spots show up on the background somewhat indistinctly.

Three clear eggs were found in the nest.

All the eggs were of the same size :  $\frac{7}{8}'' \times \frac{5}{8}''$ .

10. BLUE-THROATED SUNBIRD. *Anthreptes reichenowii*, Gunning.

A nest was found on Oct. 22nd, 1909, built about 15 feet from the ground in a tall thick-leaved bush and suspended to a bough on the outside of the bush, but under a canopy of thick foliage.

I first heard the birds calling and then located them, and

after searching all round found the nest, with both parents on a tree close by; after a few minutes both flew to the nest, but neither entered. Returning to the spot the following day I managed to shoot the male, but could not get the female, although I waited hidden for more than two hours. The nest contained three eggs, all slightly incubated, and was constructed, in the usual dome-shape of the Sunbirds, of bits of bark, lichens, catkins, fine grass, and bound together with cobwebs, and lined inside with a soft white silky substance obtained from a species of cotton-grass found commonly about the locality.

The nest-tree was in a glade in very thick forest.

Colour of eggs: white, two of which are spotted and freckled all over (but more thickly at the larger end, forming a zone) of dull red; the third egg is much less heavily marked, but has the zone at the larger end very distinct.

Sizes of eggs:  $\frac{5}{8}'' \times \frac{7}{16}''$ ;  $\frac{5}{8}'' \times \frac{7}{16}''$ ;  $\frac{9}{16}'' \times \frac{7}{16}''$ .

The general habits of this species, so far as my observations go up to the present, are similar in many respects to those of *A. collaris*, and they may often be seen consorting with the latter bird. They invariably inhabit the thick woods and forests and are never seen out in the open like *C. gutturalis*, *C. kirki*, and *C. microrhynchus*. They creep and flutter about among the foliage in search of insects, which appear to be their chief food. This species may often be seen and heard high up in large trees, and consort usually in pairs, but sometimes three or four are seen together.

It appears to be a resident here, as I have observed it throughout the year. It is distinctly scarce.

[The procuring of another pair of this very distinct new species of Sunbird and their eggs by Mr. Sheppard is of great interest —EDD.]

# 11. RUFOUS-BREASTED GROUND ROBIN. *Erythropygia quadrivirgata*, Rehw.

A nest was found on Nov. 22nd, 1909, placed in a hollow on the top of a stump about 3 feet above the ground in



the middle of a thick forest. It was a cup-shaped structure, built of fine roots and fibres and bits of decayed bark.

The nest contained three eggs, but one of them obviously belonged to another species of bird. Neither of the birds belonging to the nest was to be seen, although I waited hidden for a long time, so I decided to try and snare the parent on the nest; leaving the nest for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, I returned to see the result, and found a female *quadrivirgata* caught, and on a tree near by was undoubtedly a *Cuculus solitarius*, which I fired at but did not kill. I waited for a long time hidden to try to get the male bird, but failed to see him at all.

Colour of eggs of *E. quadrivirgata*: a creamy white, thickly blotched and splashed with red-brown, rather more dense at the larger end.

Size of eggs (2): both measure  $\frac{3}{4}'' \times \frac{9}{16}''$ .

Colour of *C. solitarius* egg (1): an even pale terra-cotta.

Size of *C. solitarius* egg:  $\frac{15}{16}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''$ .

## XII.—Occasional Notes.

8. THE HABITS OF THE GREAT-TAILED WIDOW BIRD (*Diatroprura procne*).—In the January 1910 No. of the 'Avicultural Magazine' Mr. W. E. Teschemaker gives us an interesting article on the Giant Widow Bird. He discredits the belief that this bird cannot fly well in wet or windy weather. Mr. Claude G. Davies, a talented and energetic Member of our Union, agrees in the main with the writer of the above in a letter to the 'Avicultural Magazine' (May 1910), but I would draw my friend's, as well as Mr. Teschemaker's, attention to the following:—I *have seen* the Sakabulas caught by the hand by little Basuto boys, in the Maroka District of the Free State, during very heavy rains. But, then, it rains so heavily in South Africa sometimes that no ordinary canvas tent can resist it, leaking through the cloth in all directions! It is also a common sight up here to see a fine male bird struggling valiantly against the wind,

making little or no headway, until he gives up in despair and turning is driven mercilessly before the blast until he "flops" into the grass and so escapes from the struggle. I agree with Davies's remarks on the polygamous habit, viz. that young females are often mistaken for males, but he is mistaken in his assertion that this habit is not imputed to the *Pyromelana* as well. In my paper on Protective Resemblance I mention this fact; but as regards this species Mr. A. Duncan once pointed out, at a meeting of the Johannesburg Field Naturalists' Club, the common error of mistaking young males for females.

ALWIN HAAGNER.

Zoo, Pretoria,  
29. 9. 10.

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#### 9. OCCURRENCE OF WHITE EGRET WITH RING.

Dear Mr. HAAGNER,—I presume you have information from other countries as to which kinds of birds have been "ringed" for migration records.

It seems that two weeks ago a pair of large white Egrets (*Herodias alba*) were seen on the Buffalo River near here, and that one of them had a narrow shining ring on its leg which looked like metal. The man who told me this said he saw them almost every day for a fortnight, and that he generally got quite close to them as he passed in a boat. He is very confident that what he noticed on the leg of one of them, as it stood near him on a rock, was a ring. He described the birds first as Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*), but upon closely questioning him I feel sure they were Egrets.

If you have had any notification as to the Large Egret having been "ringed" you will presumably pass on this item.

Yours sincerely, JNO. WOOD.

East London, C.C.,  
5. 9. 10.

[There seems little doubt that the birds were Egrets; this species has also been marked in Hungary.—EDD.]

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10. IXODID ON SWALLOW.—I have received the following from the Government Entomologist, Cape Town, under date 1st February, 1910 :—

“Professor G. Neumann writes as per the following translation in reply to my letter accompanying the tick taken from a Swallow :—

‘The tick from *Hirundo rustica* which you sent me on the 22nd of December last, and which I received on January 8th, is *Ixodes frontalis*, Panzer. It is a poorly known species which is sometimes found, always in small numbers, on divers birds in Europe, non-migratory or migratory, and always in the state of female or of nymph. The male has not yet been found, which leaves some doubt upon the morphological limits of the species.’

“I wrote to Neumann, on receipt of yours of January 4th, explaining that the Swallow was *H. albigularis*. My first letter had merely stated that the species was probably *rustica*. Stark says in his book on South African birds that *H. albigularis* breeds in South Africa and migrates to parts unknown—probably East and Central Africa—towards winter. The tick named seems not to be recorded from Africa before, and there seems to be no telling where the bird picked it up, and—in the absence of any knowledge of the habits of the species—how long it may have carried it.”

Two of these ticks have since been found on examples of the Pied Starling (*Spreo bicolor*). J. P. MURRAY.

Maseru, Basutoland,  
29. 7. 10.

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11. THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORNITHOLOGY.—This was held in Berlin from May 30th till June 4th of this year, under the Presidency of Dr. A. Reichenow, of the Berlin Museum of Natural History. Dr. Brühl was Secretary. A full account of the meeting will appear later.

XIII.—*Short Notices of Ornithological Publications.*7. *The Ibis, a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology.*

The January 1910 No. of the premier Ornithological Journal contains the second part of Mr. J. A. S. Bucknill's paper on the Birds of Cyprus. The second paper in this No. is one on the Ornithological Collections of the University of Cambridge, by Dr. H. Gadow, M.A., F.R.S., the Strickland Curator. These include, besides the original Strickland collection of 6006 specimens, eight large and sundry small collections of birds collected by various celebrities and presented to the University Museum. Amongst these we note two names well known to the South-African Ornithologist, viz., Col. H. W. Feilden and J. H. Gurney.

Paper No. 4 is a lengthy catalogue of the birds of Northern Rhodesia and the Katanga District of Congoland, by S. A. Neave, M.A., B.Sc., &c., with two coloured plates and a text-figure. The two plates represent two new species, viz. *Trochocercus vivax*, Neave, and *Dryodromus pearsoni*, Neave.

Mr. Neave says he shot the Blue-spotted and Green-spotted *Chalcopelia chalcospilos* (Metallic-spotted Dove) within a few days of one another, and that one example had only one purple spot on one wing, while another had several green spots. An example of *Otis kori* was seen on the Upper Lufupa River, near the watershed.

Mr. Neave considers, with Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, that *Myrmecocichla nigra* is distinct from *M. arnotti*.

The April number gives us a continuation of Mr. Neave's notes on the Birds of Northern Rhodesia and Congoland. A new genus and species is described (*Paludipasser locustella*) and figured in a coloured plate by Grönvold. The bill of this species and that of *Spermestes scutatus* (its nearest ally) are also figured in the text. In this number we also have a long "obituary" notice of the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe.

The July number contains a further (the 3rd) contribution on the Ornithology of Cyprus by our one time President and Editor, Mr. Bucknill.

We have also a note on a rare Weaver-bird (*Othyphantes batesi*) by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, illustrated by a coloured lithograph by Grönvold. An account of the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union also appears in this number. The Membership at the date of the Meeting consisted of 424 Ordinary, 3 Extra-Ordinary, 9 Honorary, 9 Colonial, and 20 Foreign Members. Dr. F. DuCane Godman, F.R.S., was re-elected President, and Mr. J. L. Bonhote, M.A., Secretary. 13 gentlemen were elected Ordinary Members at the Meeting, and 4 ladies Honorary Lady Members.

A resolution of regret and grief at the death of that intrepid explorer and enthusiastic ornithologist Capt. Boyd Alexander\* was passed. This number also contains a biographical notice of the late Professor H. H. Giglioli, of Florence.

8. *The Avicultural Magazine*, November 1909 to April 1910.

The November number of this popular little Journal contains two papers of interest to South Africans. The first, on the nesting of the Spotted-backed Weaver (*Ploceus spilonotus*), calls for no comment. The second, on the breeding of the Quail Finch (*Ortygospiza polyzona*), is one of those lengthy anecdotal papers we have learnt to expect from the pen of Mr. Reginald Phillipps. He describes the nesting in his aviaries of the little Bar-breasted Finch, and once again questions the statement of a South-African ornithologist on the strength of his observations in an English aviary (under artificial conditions). The January No. has an interesting article on the breeding of the Great-tailed Widow Bird (*Diatroprura procne*), here called the Giant Whydah (*Chera procne*), by Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, B.A. He discredits the belief that this bird cannot fly well in wet or windy weather. The February No. has a paper in the correspondence column on the breeding of the Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua serena = principalis*) by Dr. A. Butler.

\* [A biographical notice will appear in the next No. of the Journal.—EDD.]

The May No. contains a paper on the Red-faced Mouse-bird (*Colius indicus*=*erythromelon*) by Frank Finn, B.A., illustrated by a coloured plate by H. Goodchild.

The June No. gives us a short account of the breeding of the Grey-headed Sparrow (*Passer griseus*=*diffusus*) by Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, B.A., also a further letter by this writer on the Pin-tailed and Giant Whydahs.

The July and August numbers contain an interesting article by Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote, M.A., on the age of birds in confinement, illustrated by a couple of photo plates.

9. *Journal für Ornithologie.* (*Organ of the German Ornithological Society.*)

The January 1910 No. contains an account of the Ostrich farm instituted by Hagenbeck in Stellingen, by Dr. A. Sokolowsky. Although a certain amount of success with incubator chicks was obtained, we hardly think the experiment will prove of any great success in the long run, the climatic conditions being so much at variance with what Ostriches are accustomed to.

This No. also contains a paper on the genus *Pratincola* of Koch, by Dr. Ernst Hartert. We are sorry to see that binomials are conspicuous by their absence, only two or three appearing in the list, trinomialism being "to the fore," which is cumbersome to a degree, if nothing else.

The April 1910 No. contains obituary notices of Prof. Giglioli and Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe. The only thing of interest to South African ornithologists in the July No., besides the 9th Annual Report of the Vogelwarte Rossitten, is a small paper on a "revision" of the genera *Spermospiza* and *Pyrenestes* by Oscar Neumann.

10. *The Emu.* *Official Organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union.*

The July 1910 No. forms the first of volume x., and contains, amongst papers of purely local interest, the following which will appeal to South Africans:—"Bird Life on the Kermadec Islands," by Tom Iredale (herein are

mentioned many sea-birds common to both countries) ; "The Destruction of Birds," by J. W. Mellor.

11. *The Life of William MacGillivray, M.A., LL.D.*  
By William MacGillivray, W.S. With a Scientific Appreciation by J. Arthur Thomson, Regius Professor of Natural History, University of Aberdeen. John Murray (London). Price 10s.6d. net.

We can confidently recommend this book to any earnest student of ornithology, and to all readers who delight in the earlier scientists. It is well printed and illustrated by half-tone full-page reproductions of MacGillivray's beautiful drawings in the British Museum. The book is divided into three sections—the first five Chapters being devoted to a biographical account of his life, the sixth to an appreciation of his scientific work by Professor J. Arthur Thomson (whom all South Africans will remember as the S. A. Association for Adv. of Science lecturer in 1909), and the seventh to extracts from his works. Suffice it to add that the book makes interesting and instructive reading.

12. *Katalog der Eiersammlung von Adolf Nehrkorn.* 2nd Edition. R. Friedländer & Sohn, 1910. Cloth, price 10 mark (10s.).

It is with much pleasure that we give a short notice of this work, which is illustrated by four coloured plates of rare exotic eggs. The total number of species mentioned and described is 5440, an almost incredible total for a private collector, and a glowing tribute to the energy and enthusiasm of the author.

13. *Check-list of Birds of South Africa.* By Dr. J. W. B. Gunning & Alwin Haagner. Govt. Printing Office, Pretoria, 1910.

This compilation was printed as a supplement to the 'Annals of the Transvaal Museum,' but every Member of the Union whose subscription was not too far in arrear was supplied with a free copy, the Union paying for this extra print. The generic and specific names are given with full

data, and English and Dutch vernacular names are given for each species. As, however, this list has been in the press some months, several birds have since been added to the South African list which do not appear herein.

14. *The Home Life of a Golden Eagle*. By H. B. Macpherson. Witherby & Co., 1909. 5s. net.

This is a full account of the nesting of a pair of Golden Eagles in the Grampian Mountains; a special feature of this little book being the excellent photographic plates with which it is illustrated, depicting in a life-like manner various episodes in the life of the young Golden Eagle.

15. *The Geographical Distribution of Birds*.—I. Genus *Macronyx*, Swainson, by F. Nicholson. (Mem. Man. Lit. Phil. Soc. 1909, No. 24.)

In this paper nine species are dealt with, giving their exact distribution so far as is at present known, illustrated by two coloured plates.

16. *A Monograph of the Petrels*. By F. Du Cane Godman, D.C.L., F.R.S.

This sumptuous work has now been completed by the issue of parts iv. & v. since our last notice. It should find a worthy place on the bookshelves of all who can afford to pay the £15 15s. which is the price of the completed work, bound in full best morocco, with 100 hand-coloured plates. The publishers are Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London, W.C.

17. *A Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds*. By Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe.

Vol. v. of this very useful work was issued by the British Museum towards the end of 1909, the first having appeared in 1899, the whole work having thus been completed in 10 years of the busy doctor's private time. The total number of species given is 18,939 and the genera 2810. This work ought to be of inestimable value to all systematic students of ornithology.

A. K. H.



## NAME INDEX.

---

### A.

*Accipiter minullus*, 11.  
*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, 7.  
 — *palustris*, 7.  
 African Buzzard-Eagle, 31, 38.  
 — Crake, 13.  
 — Hawk-Eagle, 14, 31.  
 — Stripe-breasted Swallow, 4.  
 — White-rumped Swift, 5.  
*Amydrus morio*, 28.  
*Anas capensis*, 12.  
 — *undulata*, 12.  
 Ant-eating Chat, 9.  
*Anthreptes collaris*, 44.  
 — *reichenowii*, 43.  
*Anthus crenatus*, 7.  
 — *nicholsoni*, 7, 16.  
*Apalis florisuga*, 29.  
*Apus caffer*, 5.  
*Ardetta minuta*, 11.  
 — *pagesi*, 11.  
*Asturimula monogrammica*, 31.

### B.

Babbling Reed-Warbler, 8.  
*Barbatula bilineata*, 40.  
 Barbet, White-eared, 40.  
 Barn Owl, 10.  
*Batis molitor*, 42.  
 — *sheppardi*, 42.  
*Baza verreauxi*, 39.

Bee-eater, Carmine-throated, 5.  
 — —, European, 3.  
 Bee-eaters, 18.  
 Bittern, European Little, 11.  
 Black-and-Grey Cuckoo, 10.  
 — -breasted Harrier-Eagle, 10.  
 — -chested Wren-Warbler, 22.  
 — Cuckoo, 5.  
 — Stork, 2, 11.  
 — -winged Pratincole, 3.  
 Blue-throated Sunbird, 43.  
 Booted Eagle, 13.  
*Bradypterus babaculu*, 8.  
*Buccanodon leucotis*, 40.  
 Bunting, Rock, 6.  
 Bush-Robin, White-starred, 30.  
 — -Shrike, Tschagra, 7.  
 — -Warbler, Yellow-bellied, 29.  
 Bustard, Stanley, 13.  
*Buteo desertorum*, 4.  
 Buzzard, Steppe, 4.

### C.

Cabanis's Thrush, 27.  
*Campephaga hartlaubi*, 9.  
 Cape Teal, 12.  
 — Wagtail, 7.  
 — Wigeon, 12.  
*Caprimulgus natalensis*, 9.  
 — *trimaculatus*, 9.  
 Carmine-throated Bee-eater, 5.  
*Cerchneis naumanni*, 3.

*Chalcopelia chalcospilos*, 48.  
 Chat, Ant-eating, 9.  
 —, Mountain, 9, 33.  
*Chera procne*, 49.  
 Chestnut-fronted Shrike, 42.  
*Chlorodyta neglecta*, 29.  
*Ciconia ciconia*, 2, 17, 46.  
 — *nigra*, 2, 11.  
*Cinnyris afer*, 30.  
 — *gutturalis*, 44.  
 — *kirki*, 44.  
 — *microrhynchus*, 44.  
*Circaëtus pectoralis*, 10.  
*Circus macrurus*, 4, 11.  
*Cisticola chiniana*, 9.  
 — — *magna*, 9.  
 — *fulvicapilla*, 8.  
 — *natalensis*, 9.  
 — *ruficapilla*, 8.  
 — *subruficapilla*, 8, 9.  
 — *timiens*, 8.  
*Clamator glandarius*, 4, 10.  
 — *hypopinari*, 10.  
*Colius erythromelon*, 29, 50.  
 — *indicus*, 10, 29, 50.  
 Coot, Red-knobbed, 13.  
*Coracias caudatus*, 41.  
 — *garrulus*, 2.  
*Coturnix delagorguei*, 13.  
 Crane, African, 13.  
 —, Red-chested, 13.  
*Crex crex*, 4.  
 — *egregia*, 13.  
 Cuckoo, Black, 5.  
 —, — and-Grey, 10.  
 —, European, 3, 10, 25.  
 — Falcon, 39.  
 —, Golden, 5.  
 —, Great Spotted, 4, 10.  
 — Shrike, Yellow-shouldered, 9.  
 —, South African, 5.  
*Cuculus canorus*, 3, 10.  
 — *clamosus*, 5.  
 — *upreus*, 5.  
 — *solitarius*, 5, 45.

## D.

*Dendrocygna viduata*, 12.  
 Diamond Sparrow, 6.  
*Diatroprura procne*, 45, 49.  
 Dove, Metallic-spotted, 48.  
*Dryodromus pearsoni*, 48.  
*Dryoscopus cubla*, 42.  
 Duck, White-faced, 12.  
 —, Yellow-billed, 12.  
 Dwarf Goose, 12.

## E.

Eagle, African Buzzard-, 31, 38.  
 —, — Hawk-, 14, 31.  
 —, Black-breasted Harrier-, 10.  
 —, Booted, 13.  
 —, Golden, 52.  
 Egret, Great White, 11.  
 —, White, 46.  
*Erythropygia quadrivirgata*, 44, 45.  
 European Bee-eater, 3.  
 — Cuckoo, 3, 10, 25.  
 — Little Bittern, 11.  
 — Roller, 2.  
 — Swallow, 4.<sup>1</sup>  
*Eutolmætus spilogaster*, 31.

## F.

Falcon Cuckoo, 39.  
 —, Pigmy, 28.  
 Finch, Quail, 49.  
 Flamingo, Greater, 11.  
 Flycatcher, Orange-breasted, 42.  
 —, Spotted, 25.  
 Francolin, Natal, 12.  
*Francolinus natalensis*, 12.  
 Freckled Nightjar, 9.  
*Fringillaria tahapisi*, 6.  
*Fulica cristata*, 13.



## G.

- Garden Warbler, 22.  
 Giant Whydah, 49.  
*Glareola melanoptera*, 3.  
 Golden Cuckoo, 5.  
 — Eagle, 52.  
 Goose, Dwarf, 12.  
 —, Spur-wing, 11.  
 Grass-Warbler, Grey-backed, 8.  
 — —, Le Vaillant's, 8.  
 — —, Rufous-headed, 8.  
 — —, Tawny-headed, 8.  
 Great Reed-Warbler, 7.  
 — Spotted Cuckoo, 4, 10.  
 — -tailed Widow Bird, 45, 49.  
 — White Egret, 11.  
 Greater Double-collared Sunbird,  
 30.  
 — Flamingo, 11.  
 Greenshank, 2.  
 Grey-backed Grass-Warbler, 8.  
 — -headed Sparrow, 50.

## H.

- Harlequin Quail, 13.  
 Harrier-Eagle, Black-breasted, 10.  
 — Hawk, 37.  
 —, Pale, 11.  
 —, Pallid, 4.  
 Hawk, 23.  
 — -Eagle, African, 14.  
 —, Harrier, 37.  
 —, Little Sparrow-, 11.  
 —, Sparrow-, 23.  
*Hemipteryx*, 16.  
 — *minuta*, 15.  
*Herodias alba*, 11, 46.  
*Hieraëtus pennatus*, 13.  
 — *spilogaster*, 14.  
*Hirundo albigularis*, 5, 47.  
 — *cucullata*, 4.  
 — *puella*, 5.  
 — *rustica*, 4, 47.

- Hoopoe, Scimitar-billed, 32.  
*Hyliota australis*, 14, 15.  
 — *rhodesiæ*, 14.

## I.

- Ictodes frontalis*, 47.  
*Iynx ruficollis*, 10.

## K.

- Kaupifalco monogrammicus*, 38.  
 Kestrel, Lesser, 3.  
 Kite, Yellow-billed, 2.

## L.

- Laimodon torquatus*, 41.  
 Land-Rail, 4.  
*Lanius collurio*, 3.  
 Large Yellow Seed-eater, 6.  
 — — -tufted Pipit, 7.  
 Lark, Rufous-naped, 6.  
 Lesser Kestrel, 3.  
 — Stripe-breasted Swallow, 5.  
 Le Vaillant's Grass-Warbler, 8.  
 Lilac-breasted Roller, 41.  
 Little Sparrow-Hawk, 11.

## M.

- Macronyx*, 52.  
 — *croceus*, 16.  
 Marsh-Warbler, 7.  
 Martin, South African Sand-, 9.  
*Merops apiaster*, 3, 18.  
 — *nubicoides*, 5.  
 Metallic-spotted Dove, 48.  
*Milvus ægyptius*, 2.  
*Mirafra africana*, 6.  
*Motacilla capensis*, 7.  
 Mountain Chat, 9, 33.  
 Mouse-bird, Red-faced, 10, 29, 50.  
*Myrmecocichla arnotti*, 48.

*Myrmecocichla formicivora*, 9.  
 — *nigra*, 48.

## N.

Narina Trogon, 23.  
 Natal Francolin, 12.  
 — Nightjar, 9.  
*Nettapus auritus*, 12.  
*Nicator gularis*, 43.  
 Nicholson's Pipit, 7.  
 Nightjar, Freckled, 9.  
 —, Natal, 9.

## O.

Orange-breasted Flycatcher, 42.  
*Ortygospiza polyzona*, 49.  
*Othyphantes batesi*, 48.  
*Otis cafra*, 13.  
 — *kori*, 48.  
 — *ludwigi*, 13.  
 Owl, Barn, 10.

## P.

Painted Snipe, 13.  
 Pale Harrier, 11.  
 Pallid Harrier, 4.  
*Paludipasser locustella*, 48.  
*Passer diffusus*, 50.  
 — *griseus*, 50.  
 Petrels, 52.  
*Petronia superciliaris*, 6.  
*Phænicopterus roseus*, 11.  
 Pied Starling, 47.  
 Pigmy Falcon, 28.  
 Pin-tailed Whydah, 49.  
 Pipit, Large Yellow-tufted, 7.  
 —, Nicholson's, 7.  
*Plectropterus gambensis*, 11.  
*Ploceus spilonotus*, 49.  
*Poliohierax semitorquatus*, 28.  
*Polyboroides typicus*, 37.  
*Pomatorhynchus senegalus*, 7.

*Pomatorhynchus tschagra*, 7.  
*Pratincola*, 50.  
 — *torquata*, 16.  
 Pratincole, Black-winged, 3.  
*Prinia flavicans*, 22.  
 — *mystacea*, 8.  
*Pseudocalyptomena graueri*, 24.  
*Pycnonotus layardi*, 43.  
*Pyrenestes*, 50.  
*Pyromelana*, 46.  
 — *orix*, 35.  
 — *taha*, 35.

## Q.

Quail Finch, 49.  
 —, Harlequin, 13.  
*Quelea erythrops*, 5.

## R.

Rail, Land-, 4.  
 Red-backed Shrike, 3, 25.  
 — -chested Crake, 13.  
 — -faced Mouse-bird, 10, 29, 50.  
 — -knobbed Coot, 13.  
 — -winged Starling, 28.  
 Reed-Warbler, Great, 7.  
 — —, Babbling, 8.  
*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*, 32.  
*Riparia paludicola*, 9.  
 Robin, Rufous-breasted Ground, 44.  
 —, White-starred Bush-, 30.  
 Rock Bunting, 6.  
 Roller, European, 2.  
 —, Lilac-breasted, 41.  
*Rostratula bengalensis*, 13.  
 Rufous-breasted Ground Robin, 44.  
 — -headed Grass-Warbler, 8.  
 — -naped Lark, 6.

## S.

Sand-Martin, South African, 9.  
*Sarothrura rufa*, 13.

*Saxicola andersoni*, 34.  
 — *castor*, 33.  
 — *diluta*, 33.  
 — *griseiceps*, 33.  
 — *leucomelana*, 33, 34, 37.  
 — — *monticola*, 34.  
 — *monticola*, 9, 33-36.  
 — — *leucomelana*, 34.  
 Scimitar-billed Hoopoe, 32.  
*Scotocerca inquieta*, 24.  
 Seed-eater, Large Yellow, 6.  
 — —, Sundevall's, 6.  
*Serinus scotops*, 6.  
 — *sulphuratus*, 6.  
 Shrike, Chestnut-fronted, 42.  
 —, Red-backed, 3, 25.  
 —, Yellow-shouldered Cuckoo-, 9.  
 —, — -spotted, 43.  
*Sigmodus scopifrons*, 42.  
 Snipe, Painted, 13.  
 South African Cuckoo, 5.  
 — — Sand-Martin, 9.  
 — — Wryneck, 10.  
 Sparrow, Diamond, 6.  
 —, Grey-headed, 50.  
 — -Hawk, 23.  
 — —, Little, 11.  
*Spermestes scutatus*, 48.  
*Spermospiza*, 50.  
 Spotted-backed Weaver, 49.  
 Spotted Flycatcher, 25.  
*Spreo bicolor*, 47.  
 Spur-wing Goose, 11.  
 Stanley Bustard, 13.  
 Starling, Pied, 47.  
 —, Red-winged, 23.  
*Stephanibyx melanopterus*, 32.  
 Steppe Buzzard, 4.  
 Stork, Black, 2, 11.  
 —, White, 2, 17, 20, 25.  
 Storks, 46.  
*Strix flammea*, 10.  
 Sunbird, Blue-throated, 43.  
 —, Greater Double-collared, 30.  
 Sundevall's Seed-eater, 6.

Swallow, 47.  
 —, African Stripe-breasted, 4.  
 —, European, 4.  
 —, Lesser Stripe-breasted, 5.  
 —, White-breasted, 5.  
 Swift, African White-rumped, 5.  
*Sylvia simplex*, 22.

## T.

*Tarsiger stellatus*, 30.  
 Tawny-flanked Wren-Warbler, 8.  
 — -headed Grass-Warbler, 8.  
 Teal, Cape, 12.  
 Thrush, Cabanis's, 27.  
 Tinker Bird, White-browed, 40.  
*Totanus glottis*, 2.  
*Trochocercus vivax*, 48.  
 Trogon, Narina, 23.  
 Tschagra Bush-Shrike, 7.  
*Turdus cabanisi*, 27.

## V.

*Vidua principalis*, 49.  
 — *serena*, 9, 49.

## W.

Wagtail, Cape, 7.  
 Warbler, Babbling Reed-, 8.  
 —, Black-chested Wren-, 22.  
 —, Garden, 22.  
 —, Great Reed-, 7.  
 —, Grey-backed Grass-, 8.  
 —, Le Vaillant's Grass-, 8.  
 —, Marsh-, 7.  
 —, Rufous-headed Grass-, 8.  
 —, Tawny-flanked Wren-, 8.  
 —, — -headed Grass-, 8.  
 —, Woodbush, 15.  
 —, Yellow-bellied Bush-, 29.  
 Weaver, Spotted-backed, 49.  
 White-breasted Swallow, 5.  
 — -browed Tinker Bird, 40.

White-eared Barbet, 40.  
—— Egret, 46.  
—— -faced Duck, 12.  
—— -starred Bush-Robin, 30.  
—— Stork, 2, 17, 20, 25.  
Whydah, Giant, 49.  
——, Pin-tailed, 49.  
Widow-bird, Great-tailed, 45, 49.  
Wigeon, Cape, 12.  
Woodbush Warbler, 15.

Wren-Warbler, Black-chested, 22.  
—— —, Tawny-flanked, 8.  
Wryneck, South African, 10.

## Y.

Yellow-bellied Bush-Warbler, 29.  
—— -billed Duck, 12.  
—— — Kite, 2.  
—— -shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, 9.  
—— -spotted Shrike, 43.

# THE JOURNAL

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# SOUTH AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

EDITED BY

Dr. J. W. B. GUNNING,  
ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S. &c., and B. C. R. LANGFORD.

---

### CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. Migration Report 1908-1909 .....	1
II. A Second Contribution to the Ornithology of Eastern Pondoland. By C. G. DAVIES, M.B.O.U. ....	5
III. On a new Species of Flycatcher from Rhodesia. By ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S. &c. ....	14
IV. Field-Notes on the "Woodbush Warbler" ( <i>Hemipteryx minuta</i> , Gunn.). By F. VAUGHAN-KIRBY, F.Z.S. ....	15
V. Some Remarks on the Migration of the White Stork ( <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> ). By ALWIN HAAGNER, F.Z.S. &c. ....	17
VI. Obituary: Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE, Asst. Keeper, British Museum. (Plate I.) .....	20
VII. Occasional Notes .....	21
VIII. Short Notices of Ornithological Publications .....	24

---

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---

### CONTENTS.

	PAGE
IX. Remarks upon some further (mostly hitherto undescribed or unfigured) Eggs of certain South African Birds. By JOHN A. BUCKNILL, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., and G. HENRIK GRÖNVOLD. (Plate II.).....	27
X. Notes on the Plumage of the Mountain Chat ( <i>Saxicola monticola</i> , Bechst.). By C. G. DAVIES, M.B.O.U. ....	33
XI. Field-Notes on some little-known Birds. including two new Species, from Observations made during the Nesting-Season of 1909 near Beira, P.E.A. By P. A. SHEPPARD .....	37
XII. Occasional Notes .....	45
XIII. Short Notices of Ornithological Publications .....	48
Name Index .....	53
Titlepage. Contents. List of Papers, Roll of Members, Subject-matter Index, &c.	

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